■ News / A2
GMA softens on tax measures, lets Congress decide

■ World / A10
CBS News fires 4 top execs over report on Bush military record

■ Entertainment / A28
24 most fascinating interviews of 2004 with Hollywood stars

■ Metro / A19
New lives, new homes for orphans in Muntinlupa City

■ Motoring / B2-1
Motown's new designs, hi-tech show, eco-friendly cars

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
ALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

y, January 12, 2005 ★★ 50 pages / 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 35 P18

website: www.inq7.net

He lived on prayers while adrift at sea for 2 weeks

KLANG, Malaysia—Tsunami survivor Ari Afrizal drifted on the Indian Ocean for two weeks, living on coconuts that he pried open with his teeth while floating on pieces of wood, then a broken boat, and finally a fishing raft.

And all the time, he prayed.

His prayers were answered when a container ship, Al Yamamah, spotted him on Sun-

HE LIVED/ A18

OUT of office and out of the country, and even while hobbling around on a walker at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital, Joseph Estrada continues to draw controversy and to heat up the political landscape. He was discharged from the hospital Tuesday. AP

Estrada makes whoopee in HK

He even flew in his personal barber

By Armand Nocum and Michael Lim Ubac

AND DON'T forget the barber.

The police escorts of Joseph Estrada have admitted to allowing him to wander out of the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital—in violation, according to court officials, of the Sandiganbayan directive for him to limit his movements to hospital grounds.

A police report submitted to the antigraft court, a copy of which was leaked to the INQUIRER, indicates that the deposed President is living in style, holding court for his former Cabinet officials in an upscale apartment, and even having his barber flown to the former Crown Colony to spruce up his hair.

The report dated Jan. 11 said that at 7 p.m. on Jan. 9, Estrada was given an "overnight pass" by Dr. Julian Chang to "stay at his rented flat at Room 0195, Tower 18, Parkview, Hong Kong."

At 9 p.m. of that day, Estrada "hosted a dinner at the Parkview Restaurant, Tow-

ESTRADA/ A4

SC: No proof Sandoval sick; resignation rejected

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court rejected the resignation of Sandiganbayan Justice Edilberto Sandoval from the antigraft court's special division trying former President Joseph Estrada on plunder and perjury charges.

The Supreme Court en banc met yesterday and agreed that Sandoval failed to "substantiate" the health reasons he cited for his resignation, court sources said.

"It was deemed not accepted. He failed to justify his medical condition as a reason for his resignation," one court official said.

Sandoval said Monday when he announced his resignation that his hectic schedule was taking a toll on his health.

SC: NO PROOF/ A4

Lanao del Sur lawmaker slams cops' Islamophobia

By Carlito Pablo
Tarra V. Quismundo
and Christian V. Esguerra

A CONGRESSMAN and former Moro fighter bewailed what he called the rising "Islamophobia" among law enforcers as the police case against a group of alleged Muslim bomb plotters suffered fresh cracks yesterday.

Four days after police announced they had uncovered a supposed Islamic plot to bomb last weekend's Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo, the number of suspects in custody dwindled to two after three more detainees were released for lack of evidence.

The group originally numbered 17.

The Manila City Prosecutor's Office recommended that only two in the group—Afgani Alonto and Leonardo Ricalde—be charged with illegal possession of explosives and firearms.

"Muslims are always the scapegoats," former Moro National Liberation Front commander and now Rep. Benasing Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur) said in a stinging privilege speech on Monday night in the House of Representatives.

"No Muslim is spared in this country. No Muslim is safe in this

LANAO/ A17

A TALE OF 2 GRAFT CASES

Imelda asks SC to dismiss ₱100-M graft cases

By Philip C. Tubeza

IMELDA Marcos has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss two graft cases filed against her and three others for the questionable release of nearly P100 million in public funds in 1984 when she was minister of human settlements.

In a 22-page memorandum filed by her lawyer Rodolfo Jimenez, the widow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos asked the tribunal to uphold the Sandiganbayan ruling in March 2002 that dismissed the two cases.

She said the government had failed to prove that she conspired with her co-accused—Jose Conrado Benitez, Gilbert C. Dulay and Rafael Zagala, all of the defunct Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS)—in the malversation of P97.954 million in MHS funds for the project Kilusang Sariling Sikap.

According to the memorandum, Imelda "had no participation whatsoever, so the prosecution evidence shows, in the preparation, approval and/or release of the disbursement vouchers and

IMELDA/ A4

DepEd execs get 20 years for ₱398,000 overprice

By Armand Nocum

TWO FORMER education officials in Davao Oriental were each sentenced to 20 years behind bars after being found guilty of overpricing by hundreds of thousands of pesos science laboratory equipment purchased in 1990.

The Sandiganbayan imposed a 20-year sentence for two counts of graft on Venancio R. Nava and Primo C. Obenza, a former regional director and a former division superintendent, respectively, of the Department of Education.

Also sentenced to 20 years each were traders Antonio S. Tan and Evelyn S. Miranda, who were also asked to pay P398,962.55, the equivalent of the purchase overprice.

DEPED/ A4

MARAMING TSISMOSO!

Even on hold, your call may be monitored

MELVILLE, New York—It is the opening line in so many phone conversations these days: This call may be monitored for quality assurance purposes.

The taped message is so common that many callers might assume that no one is ever listening, let alone taking notes. But they could be wrong.

Monitoring is intended to track

EVEN ON HOLD/ A18

Alleged FPJ group claims it burned ABS van

Giant TV network says uncowed by attack

By Ruth L. Navarra
and Christian V. Esguerra

ALLEGED supporters of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. claimed responsibility for the burning of a P35-million OB van of television network ABS-CBN in Mandaluyong City at dawn yesterday.

An OB van is a mobile television studio where video and audio feeds are processed and broadcast live. It usually contains cameras, editing machines and microwave antennas.

A previously unknown group calling itself "K" said the torching of the van was "on behalf of Da King"—a nickname of the former actor and runner-up in last May's presidential election. Poe died last month without conceding defeat.

In a statement, the group accused ABS-CBN of "suppressing the truth" in its election coverage, and said local media were used to "belittle and trample upon the dignity of the leader who is

ALLEGED/ A17

ATTACK on ABS-CBN: Giant network's OB van worth about P36 million was torched by six still unidentified men early Tuesday morning in Mandaluyong. JOAN BONDOC

Army, Moro commanders 'text mates'

By Edwin O. Fernandez,
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Alcuin Papa

JUST BEFORE some 100 Moro guerrillas launched a powerful attack on an Army detachment in Maguindanao, the leader of the rebel force was texting the commander of the Army unit he was about to assault.

"We are text mates," Col. Jerry Jalandoni, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER. "He was texting me before the attack. He was blaming the Army for the death of Bides Binago."

Jalandoni's textmate was Moro Islamic Liberation Front commander Abdulwahid Tundok, head of the MILF's 105th Brigade, which assaulted and overran the base of the 37th Infantry Battalion under Jalandoni's command.

Bides Binago was the Abu Sofia kidnap-for-ransom gang leader whose death in an earlier military operation provoked Sunday's MILF attack.

ARMY/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Northern Mindanao will have widespread rains. Northern and eastern Luzon and rest of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/12/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Widespread Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Widespread Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Widespread Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Palace softens on tax bills

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo does not really care what new tax bills Congress chooses to approve in the next three months as long as these revenue measures will boost government coffers by at least P80 billion.

This was the consensus reached at a meeting in Malacañang yesterday between the President and congressional leaders led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, and Sen. Ralph Recto and Rep. Jesli Lapus, who chair the congressional ways and means committees in the two chambers

"What tax measures will be approved will not really matter because what is important is the end result—P80 billion in additional revenues," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

The congressional leaders were there to brief the President on the status of the tax measures that she certified to Congress last year.

"They decided to start with the end in mind because the effect is the same. It's like going to Quiapo, you can use whatever route as long as you reach it on time," said Bunye who described it as a "mini Ledac meeting," for the joint Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

The tax agenda include a franchise tax on the telecommunication industry, a higher tax on petroleum, and a shift to gross income taxation to plug tax leakages among corporations and professionals.

Ms Arroyo has apparently softened on pushing her tax agenda out of embarrassment about her poor batting average in getting Congress to pass new taxes last year even though party mates and allies dominate both congressional chambers.

She is also said to be concerned that her aggressive lobbying for new taxes could further pull down her public approval ratings that fell to rock bottom late last year.

Taxing the poor

Yesterday, one of her Senate allies, Sen. Joker Arroyo warned of the destabilizing effects of imposing a string of new tax measures.

He said the tax package being proposed by Malacañang "so far do not hit taxpayers and entities that are in a position to be taxed more. Sadly, they will hit the lower social classes."

He warned that a heavily taxed lower class, already burdened by the rising cost of living and lack of opportunities, was a "social volcano" waiting to explode.

"We cannot wait for such a scenario to explode in our faces," said Arroyo.

He said it would not do to have "a plethora of tax proposals that would be presented one after the other after each measure is passed."

"The pattern is getting clearer. The sin taxes, the lateral attrition bill, then VAT. After VAT, what?" said Arroyo.

Bunye said the threat of an imminent downgrade of the Philippines' credit rating "did not figure in the deliberations" in Malacañang.

International credit rating agencies have warned that a downgrade, which would have the effect of making government borrowing costs more expensive, was imminent unless the President could show them that she was determined in passing her eight proposed tax measures to correct the country's chronic budget deficit.

Congress has so far approved the sin tax bill to raise the excise taxes of alcohol and tobacco products and is close to approving the lateral attrition bill

Malacañang expects to generate additional revenues of P17 billion and P10 billion, respectively, from the two bills.

This leaves Congress with P53 billion in additional revenues to raise in the first quarter this year.

While the President has left it entirely in Congress' hands what tax measures to approve, Bunye stressed that she was "very much on top of things" considering that she "presided over the meeting."

Efficient collection

"It's difficult to orchestrate the work of two independent bodies. The President has coordinated the efforts of legislative and executive and a consensus was reached. We're satisfied with the results," he said.

House representatives meanwhile warned against the passage of the bill proposing to increase the value-added tax from 10 to 12 percent, saying it could impede economic growth and seriously affect consumers.

Deputy Minority Leader Rep. Peter Allan Cayetano (NP, Taguig-Pateros) said efforts should be made to make the tax collection more efficient before increasing the VAT.

Citing figures from the National Tax Research Center (NTRC), Cayetano said there was P208.1 billion in uncollected VAT taxes from 1998 to 2002.

He said another P85.4 billion was being lost annually from uncollected individual income and corporate income taxes annually.

The government hoped to generate P35 billion in additional revenue from the VAT increase.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the VAT increase would almost certainly raise the prices of staple foods which were "VAT-able" items. He said average Filipino's meal of *pan de sal* and instant noodles would be the first to be affected.

"The Filipino family should come first when Congress tackles House Bill 3555," Casiño said.

Yesterday, Recto and Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the finance committee, decided to prioritize the passage of the 2005 General Appropriations Act over the VAT proposal.

Villar said the GAA would be reported out in plenary next week to jump-start plenary debates on the budget. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana*

Kabayan is dead

By Volt Contreras

KABAYAN the eagle eye to eye with Kabayan the then senator before the bird was released into the wild in April.

KABAYAN, the Philippine eagle bred in captivity that became the icon of the country's wildlife conservation movement, was found dead nine months after its much-celebrated release into the wild on Mount Apo in Davao.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation said Kabayan apparently met a "fatal accident" after he perched on a high-voltage power line and was electrocuted.

The bird's remains were found by PEF personnel on Jan. 8, the foundation announced yesterday in a statement that expressed its deep sadness over the incident.

Capturing the imagination of many with its wide wingspan and fierce look, the bird was the first eagle born and bred in captivity to be released into the wild in Asia, PEF said.

Kabayan's story was closely followed by the media since his days as a fragile chick after its hatching in late 2002. It got its name from then senator and now Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro who adopted the bird and paid for its food and care. De Castro's wife, Arlene, graced the ceremonies attending Kabayan's release into the wild on April 22, 2004. The eagle was then 17 months old.

"We are very much saddened over this development," said the PEF, a non-profit organization established in 1987 that runs an 8.4-ha breeding and education center at the foot of Mt. Apo.

Dependent on private funding and grants, the foundation is headed by its president, Carlos A. Pedrosa, and has for its key supporters people like former President Corazon Aquino.

The breeding center still has 32 eagles under its care, 15 of which were born in captivity while the rest were recovered from the wild, PEF communications officer Tatit Quiblat told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Kabayan was the first and only captive-bred eagle released by the PEF so far, Quiblat said.

"This is a difficult time, but we remain committed to seeing Philippine eagles roaming freely in the wild for generations to come," said the group in its statement.

Kabayan's apparent cause of death "is the first record of an incident of this kind," it noted. "Wild Philippine eagles have been known to roam forests with transmission towers and electrical lines, including Mount Apo and the PNOC reserve, without incident.

"Kabayan's choice to perch on the power line and not in the trees surrounding the area was greatly unexpected. From the time of its hatching up to the time of release, he was reared in isolation in conditions that simulated the forest environment using natural materials for perches and housing," the PEF said. *With Jerome Aning, Manila, and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WOW 2005 EDITION

NEW FEATURES! Real Time Scoring • Amateur, Pro or Star Singer Scoring Level • Voice Change Style (Male or Female) • Adjustable Lyric Display • First Lyric Line Display-on-Browse • Song Section Repeat

WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

The No.1 Videoke Microphone

Bring me home.

FREE!
Neckphone
Mic Stand
55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
Full color guide to the 55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
BIYAHE Tayo! Bonus song
BIYAHE Tayo! VCD*

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT: Made in Korea by: ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd.
*For every purchase of Duet Mic & Tagalog Song chips

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO • Automatic CENTRE • AstroVision • ABENSON • WESTERN • Exclusively Distributed by: in-a-jiffy enterprises www.magicmic.com & G2K Corporation www.wowmagicsing.com • MUSIC VIDEO • Home & Office Center • ASTROPLUS • Surfer • Avid BRANDS! • TIONGSAN HARRISON • SOLID ELECTRONICS • PACIFIC ELECTRONICS • SANSONIC MARKETING • OHM'S TRADER • Hirosé ELECTRONICS • W & M Marketing • SANTECH • ASSURANCE Merchandising • SIGHTS & SOUNDS Audio / Video • GOLDEN SOUND • The Listening Room • SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER • Nintendo • Emme MART • People's MARKETING • Willy and Sons Corporation • ABEN Marketing • BHF • SOLAR SALES CENTER • CSI CITY SUPERMARKET INCORPORATED • ADDESSA CORPORATION • Consumers Appliance Traders, Inc. • EVER APPLIANCE CENTER, INC. • ECHO • ASIAN HOME APPLIANCE CENTER • REVERB • ROMSTREL GENERAL MERCHANDISE • ECO-TECH • Cebu Appliance Center • CENTRUM APPLIANCE CENTRUM • Lopue's • RCS MARKETING • BQ • OMI-GLEEN MARKETING INC. • ORO HOLIDAY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. • SPECIAL APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • RAINBOW APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • CENTRAL QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • Victoria • DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET • BCS MUSIC CENTER • GOLDEN BELL • Mindanao Solidmark, Inc. • BETTER LIVING • MUSIC VISION • GUANZON • MA-AN Video + Sounds

Metro Manila Dealers:
Armstrong Gonzalo Puyat Raon, Manila • Knight Audio Room Raon Shopping Center, Manila • Fair N' Square Escolta St. Binondo, Manila, Nueva St. Binondo, Manila • Ample • Viewplus Appliance • Richland Electronics • Filgifts Filipino Merchant Bldg. Legaspi Village, Makati City • Earl Toy World • Shop Manila • VMZ Business Center • Belden Mktg. • Jems Appliances • Buy Smart • Prosound • Listening Style • Victronics Computers, Inc. • Sound Quest Electronic Center • Bethel Marketing • Belcap • Yamaha School of Music • Wilsonic Marketing • A Plus A • Welcome Home Appliance Corp.

Provincial Dealers: Luzon
TSB Bazaar Baguio City • Audio Mix Calanunyan, San Jose Batangas • Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar • Ocampos Angeles • Ocampos Mega Store Metro Mall, Poblation, Balanga Bataan, Arthur St. WBB Olongapo City, Dinalupihan Public Market, Dinalupihan, Bataan
Visayas & Mindanao:
Thesson's Marketing Ducuno Bldg. cor Lerma & Panganiban Drive, Naga City • GC Appliance Corp • Siritz Consumer Electronics Cebu City • R.A. Uy Appliance • Fiesta Appliance Center • J&R Nuevo St., Cebu City

Rent law extended

By Carlito Pablo

IN what could be a measure of relief for Filipino consumers burdened with high prices and more taxes, the House of Representatives approved on third and final reading late Monday a three-year extension of the rental reform law.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. hailed the passage of House Bill No. 3356 as the "fulfillment of our commitment to social reform legislation."

The bill provides that residential rentals in highly urbanized centers may not be increased by more 10 percent each year from 2005 to 2007.

The ban covers all residential rental units in the National Capital Region and other highly urbanized cities whose rents do not exceed P7,000 per month, according to the bill's principal author, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas).

Residential units in all other areas whose rents do not exceed P4,000 a month also come within the bill's coverage.

The bill also provides that rental should be paid in advance within the first five days of every current month or the beginning of the lease agreement unless the contract provides for a late payment date.

It also says that the owner of the leased property "cannot demand more than one month advance rental."

"Neither can he (the lessor) demand more than two months' deposit which shall be kept in a bank during the entire duration of the lease agreement," the bill said.

All interest on the rental deposit must be returned to the lessee when the lease contract expires.

The extension of the Rental Reform Act of 2002, or Republic Act No. 9161, which expired last Dec. 31, 2004, is expected to benefit hundreds of thousands of urban families.

"The passage of the measure only proves the strong social conscience that binds us together in the House," said co-author Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin (Lakas).

FPJ ELECTION PROTEST

Let SC decide, Palace says of Susan's motion

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo refused to be distracted by the move of actress Susan Roces to take up the electoral protest of her late husband.

"It is best to leave the legal process to run its course. We must focus on governance and nation-building," Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said in a statement.

Bunye said the President was leaving the matter for the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to decide.

"Our lawyers will take on the issue as deemed appropriate," Bunye said.

Romulo Macalintal, Ms Arroyo's lawyer for the electoral protest filed by Fernando Poe Jr., said he has yet to consult the President on the issue of Roces' substitution for Poe who died last month after suffering a massive stroke.

He said he would still await the decision of the high court, which reportedly held an en banc session yesterday.

Macalintal has earlier said there was no legal basis for Roces to pursue Poe's protest. He invoked a 1986 ruling of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal in which the widow of Rolando Abadilla was not allowed to pursue his protest against Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan.

Macalintal said Poe's protest died with him and that Roces could not substitute for Poe because a protest is deemed "personal" to the candidate.

"But we are happy because they (the opposition) are recognizing the authority of the Supreme Court," Macalintal said.

Ms Arroyo kept a busy schedule yesterday, making herself visible with successive visits to the poor enclaves in Baseco Compound and Smokey Mountain in Tondo and Payatas in Quezon City.

"I would like to ensure that in the poorest areas in Metro Manila—like Baseco, Smokey Mountain and Payatas—you can see and feel the dawning of new hope and change this year," Ms Arroyo said.

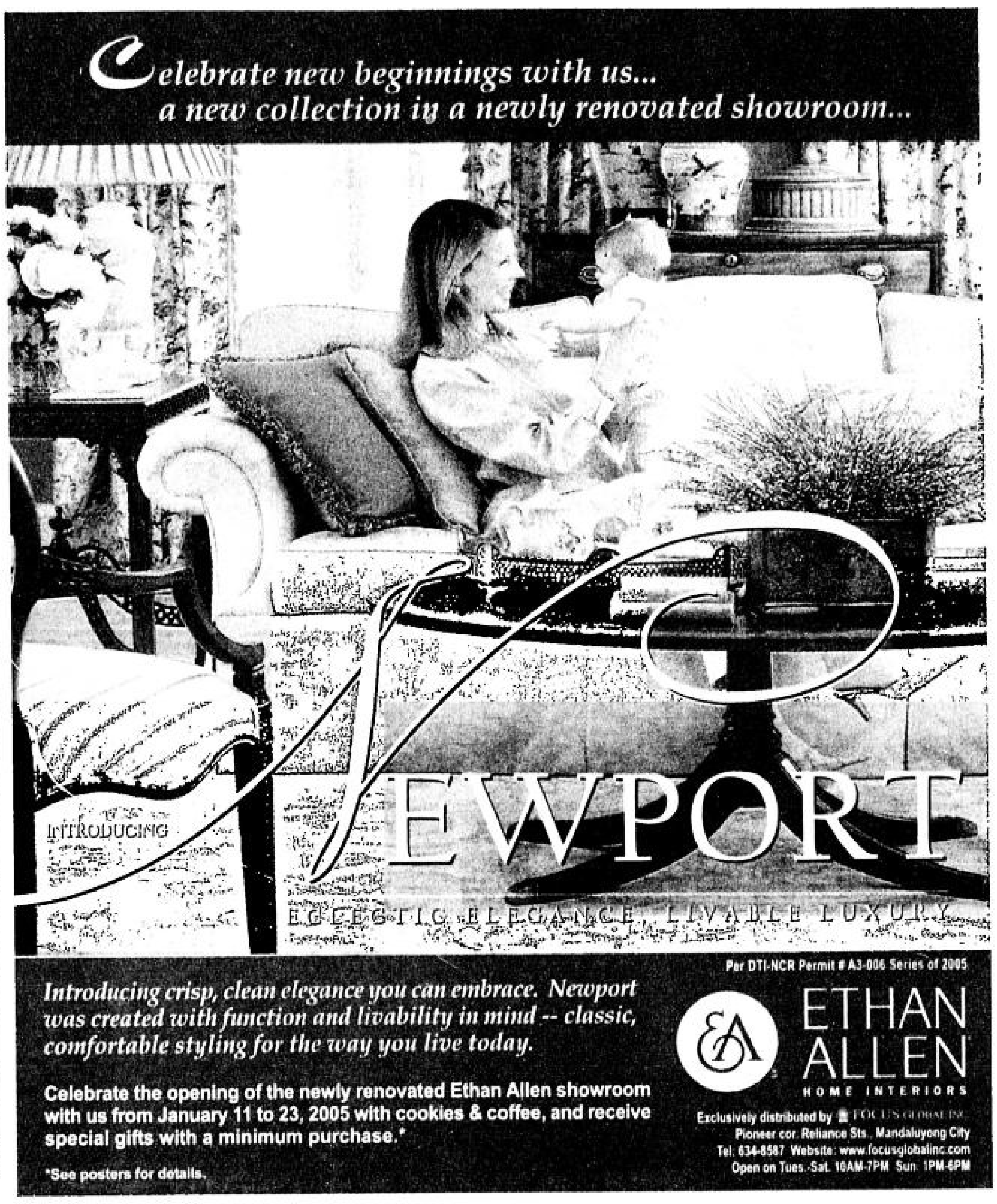
Pinoy illegals in Lebanon get reprieve

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday told undocumented and overstaying Filipinos in Lebanon to avail themselves of the "humanitarian amnesty" extended to them by the Middle Eastern country's immigration auhorities.

In his report to the DFA, Charge d'Affaires Nestor Padalhin of the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon said the amnesty was granted in consideration of the typhoons that struck Luzon and the tsunamis that devastated South and Southeast Asian countries.

According to DFA records, there are about 24,000 Filipinos residing in Lebanon as of June last year. Of these, some 6,200 are undocumented.

Padalhin said Lebanon's Surete Generale, or immigration office, initially offered the amnesty to Sri Lankan and Indian nationals, but expanded it to cover Filipinos upon the embassy's appeal. *Jerome Aning*



Celebrate new beginnings with us...
a new collection in a newly renovated showroom...

INTRODUCING NEWPORT
ECLECTIC ELEGANCE. LIVABLE LUXURY.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # A3-006 Series of 2005

Introducing crisp, clean elegance you can embrace. Newport was created with function and livability in mind -- classic, comfortable styling for the way you live today.

Celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Ethan Allen showroom with us from January 11 to 23, 2005 with cookies & coffee, and receive special gifts with a minimum purchase.*

*See posters for details.

ETHAN ALLEN
HOME INTERIORS

Exclusively distributed by FOCUS GLOBAL INC.
Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City
Tel. 634-8587 Website: www.focusglobalinc.com
Open on Tues.-Sat. 10AM-7PM Sun. 1PM-6PM

Bilbil Away!
Soothing. Nourishing.
Cleansing. Slimming.

ABS HERBS
We make life better!
www.abs-herbs.com.ph
☎ 926-3252

Feel Light,
Live Right!

Available in Mercury Drug, leading drugstores and selected supermarkets nationwide.

Beautiful Skin - Now Even More Affordable!

BUY ONE – GET ONE FREE!
EXTENDED!

Start the year right by getting not just one – but two [illegible] closer to perfectly beautiful skin. Come to Facial Care Centre and avail of our [illegible] New Year Blow-Out:

Buy One – Get One FREE on Advanced Las[illegible] Treatment Programme!
Promo extension is until January 15, 2005* only!

Now the luxury of beautiful, younger-[illegible] skin is truly affordable! Experience the most effective technologically advanc[illegible] treatments. Indulge in the most pleasurable skin pampering. This could be your [illegible] chance.

Call the Facial Care Centre professiona[illegible] now.

Facial care centre

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

Estrada makes whoopee in HK

From page A1

er 1 exclusively for his former Cabinet secretaries and [their] wives," the report said.

It said he stayed at the Parkview overnight and returned to the hospital at 8:50 the following morning.

The report was prepared by Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal of the Police Security and Protection Office. It was based on a report from Supt. Pedro V. Nicolas, leader of Estrada's four-member escort team.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post earlier reported that Estrada had rented a 2,700-square-foot flat at the Parkview, where other members of his family were staying.

Rooms at the mountain resort are said to cost as much as $70,000 a month.

Estrada was known to have slept there on his first night in Hong Kong.

Guarded by police

Sandiganbayan officials, who had requested not to be named, said the overnight stay at the Parkview was contrary to the conditions set by the court in its Dec. 1 resolution allowing Estrada to go to Hong Kong to undergo knee replacement surgery.

The resolution's third condition specified that "while in Hong Kong, [Estrada] shall be confined at the Adventist Health (Hong Kong Adventist Hospital) at 40 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong, and not at any other place."

Sought for comment, Estrada lead counsel Rene Saguisag said there was no violation of the condition because the Sandiganbayan was "clear" on the matter of "confinement."

"Was he confined at any other place?" Saguisag said in a phone interview. "The police escorts will not allow any violation."

Saguisag later sent by fax a statement saying: "He has not been confined at any other place. He is always guarded by his police escorts who will, of course, not allow any violation of this condition."

INTERVIEWED by The Associated Press at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital on Friday, former President Estrada reiterated his promise to return home to face plunder charges in court. AP

Estrada spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen also said that there was no violation of the court resolution, and that there was nothing wrong with the ex-President going out for rehabilitation.

"He's not in prison. He's there for medication, and part of the rehabilitation is for him to get fresh air. It is impractical for his lawyers to file a motion in court every time he wants to get fresh air," said Dilangalen, a lawyer and former representative of Maguindanao.

'What's wrong?'

Estrada himself phoned the INQUIRER from Hong Kong, saying he also understood the condition to mean he could go out as long as he remained confined in the hospital.

"What's wrong with hosting a dinner for my former Cabinet secretaries?" he said in the course of assailing the people who were supposedly dwelling on a "non-issue."

Told that the police report also said that on Jan. 6, his barber Rodolfo Maniclang flew to Hong Kong with lawyer Rolando Ramirez, Estrada demanded to know why even the matter of his getting a haircut was being harped on.

"*Pati ba yun iniintriga pa* (Do they have to make that the subject of intrigue)?" he said.

The report likewise said that:

- Among Estrada's visitors bearing flowers and fruits were Ambassador Susan Castrence and Vice Consul Noel Novicio, leaders of the Iglesia ni Cristo in Hong Kong, and members of the foreign press.
- Estrada was able to walk 200 steps on the fifth floor of the hospital, where he had rented four rooms each costing $2,880 a day.

Definitely returning

In Manila, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada yesterday announced that his father would "definitely" return for the plunder trial and was not involved in any destabilization plot.

Estrada's eldest son and co-accused took to the Senate floor to say that the likelihood of the ex-President fleeing was "concocted by paranoid and malicious persons."

"We will prove them wrong," he said in a privilege speech, adding:

"In fact, President Estrada, as a Filipino, has always maintained that since he was born here, he would prefer dying in his own native land.

"I wish to dispel malicious and unwarranted speculations made by some persons desperately sowing intrigues and seeking media mileage that President Estrada is going to flee and avoid prosecution. This is farthest from President Estrada's mind."

The younger Estrada said the wish of his family now was for an extension of the ex-President's leave from Jan. 15 to Jan. 21, to "allow him to recover completely and to have his doctors manage his therapy."

He told the INQUIRER later in an interview that post-operation therapy was as important as the surgery itself.

Political asylum

The senator said President Macapagal-Arroyo had twice offered in the past to let his father seek political asylum in "a country of his choice," and was twice rejected.

The first offer was made through then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez "with the *colatilla* that he officially resign as President..." the senator said.

The second offer was allegedly repeated by Perez, with the condition that President Estrada leave through the Philippines' back door.

The senator strongly deplored accusations that his father was again planning another destabilization effort.

"Again? This is an old script. Why invest more efforts to destabilize a government that is already destabilized?" he said.

He also said there was nothing wrong with his father's former Cabinet officials flying to Hong Kong: "It was a social visit by friends and well-wishers."

'Government itself'

Senator Estrada bitterly noted that his father and the political opposition in general were always being blamed for every destabilization plot.

"On the contrary, if there is anyone sowing destabilization in the country, it is the government itself, with all the corruption, mismanagement, fiscal crisis, new taxes, high cost of electricity, water and prime commodities, and the continuing isolation and alienation of this government from our people," he said.

He also said his father and members of the opposition were merely pursuing "our solemn duty and role of fiscalizing and exposing the excesses and abuses of this administration. all within the framework of our Constitution.

"[The ex-President] will return to face the charges against him, to pursue the mission of strengthening the opposition and to help bring back decency, honor and justice in our government," Senator Estrada said.

'They're always making Erap scapegoat'

By Armand N. Nocum

A TSUNAMI of criticisms has swamped Justice Edilberto Sandoval mainly from the lawyers and allies of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

His critics accuse Sandoval of using the former President to conceal the real reason behind his resignation.

In the same breath, the critics say Sandoval's statement on the alleged flip-flopping of his colleagues at the Sandiganbayan special division shows that the anti-graft court trying Estrada's plunder and perjury charges is not independent.

"Now he is showing that the Sandiganbayan is not independent," Estrada's spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The Firm influence

In a separate interview, Estrada's lead counsel Rene Saguisag said Sandoval is also showing that in general, court appointments now go on the say-so of the Carpio Villaraza Cruz Law Office (CVCLO), the legal counsel of the First Couple, or members of the Sigma Rho.

"If you want to get appointed or promoted, it helps if they (CVCLO) put in a good word for you," he said.

But Saguisag clarified that he was not sure if such influence was exerted in the decision of the Palace to appoint Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro as associate justice, in effect bypassing the more senior Sandoval, who has been in the Sandiganbayan for 22 years, compared to De Castro's seven years.

Sandoval was the lone dissenter in the resolutions allowing Estrada to stay at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, and to go to Hong Kong.

Saguisag maintains that it was really Sandoval's disappointment in not getting the coveted post that forced him to resign.

He said that before De Castro's appointment as presiding justice, Sandoval had told them that he would resign from the anti-graft court itself if he did not get his wish.

Dilangalen agreed as he lamented that Estrada seemed to be the "scapegoat" of justices who were not happy with how things turned out in their careers.

"They are always making Mr. Estrada a scapegoat," he said, noting that the Sandiganbayan is a collegial body and no one justice can influence its views.

"If he wants to resign, he should not drag President Estrada. Erap has no influence over the courts," he said.

Serious matter if...

In a radio interview on dzMM, former Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena said, however, that the government should have respected Sandoval's seniority.

Although he denied being pressured by people during his term, Garchitorena said it was a serious matter if Sandoval now hints of alleged influence by the Palace in the Estrada case.

SC: No proof Sandoval sick; resignation rejected

From page A1

"I'm now sickly," he said.

He also lamented how the division had granted Estrada's request for house arrest and to travel abroad even after he had issued dissenting opinions on the two issues.

The high court official said Sandoval failed to explain thoroughly in his letter of resignation how his health had affected his work at the special division.

"He should stay on at the special division or else he would face disciplinary action," the source said. "You can't resign just like that."

The source said the high court noted that Sandoval could not have resigned as chair of the special division because that position was reserved for the presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan.

"Therefore, he's resigning not as the head of the division but as its member," the official said.

Besides Sandoval, the special division's other members are Teresita de Castro and Francisco Villaluz Jr.

Sandoval was named chair of the special division last year when he was the acting presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan after former Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario was appointed to the Supreme Court.

Formal resolution

But Malacañang last December appointed De Castro, a junior member of the antigraft court, to be the presiding justice.

The source said the tribunal was supposed to issue the formal resolution rejecting Sandoval's resignation late yesterday afternoon but that did not push through because the resolution had yet to be drafted. The resolution is expected to be released this morning.

The Supreme Court created the Sandiganbayan special division in January 2002 to try the cases against Estrada and his co-accused after he was ousted from power.

The source said Sandoval could still appeal the high court's decision but he would have to prove that he was indeed too sick to continue with his work at the special division.

"If he does that, then the issue would be looked at again," the official said.

Malacañang yesterday said it was clueless on what had prompted Sandoval to quit as chair of the special division.

"I don't know the motivation or real reason of the justice (Sandoval). All I know is this is a personal decision," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

Bunye denied insinuations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had interfered in the cases of Estrada.

"The President has not imposed her will on this independent body. The President recognizes and respects the decisions that have emanated from the Sandiganbayan," Bunye said.

Causes for alarm

PlunderWatch, one of the people's organizations that filed the impeachment complaint against then President Joseph Estrada in 2000, accused Ms Arroyo of "toying" with the judiciary to come up with political compromises with the former President.

Fr. Joe Dizon, convenor of PlunderWatch, said Sandoval's revelations about his colleagues in the special division and the treatment he received from Malacañang when he was bypassed were all cause for alarm.

"Flip-flopping justices and political appointments in exchange for favorable decisions for Estrada seem to be the handiwork of Malacañang," Dizon said.

Dizon said there may be truth to allegations that the appointments of Nazario to the Supreme Court and of De Castro as Sandiganbayan presiding justice were Malacañang's reward for rendering decisions favorable to Estrada.

PlunderWatch said these included the decision to allow Estrada to fly to Hong Kong for knee surgery.

Speed up trial

In the Senate, Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan called on the Sandiganbayan to speed up the plunder trial to put an end to a sad, but historic, episode in the country's history.

In an interview, the senator-lawyer said that although he was a mere observer of this legal process, "we should minimize further politicizing the process so that the tribunal may be able to resolve the cases in the most expeditious manner."

"It is in the best interest of the country that we put closure to this episode in our history and determine with finality the guilt or innocence of the accused," he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, for his part, said that the resignation of Sandoval from the division hearing the cases against Estrada was unprofessional.

"If the judge is too sensitive ... the administration of justice will become erratic and unpredictable," said Angara.

He believed that Sandoval should not have publicly expressed his feelings but should have gone straight to the high court administrator if he had issues because his resignation affected the institution.

"He said that his main reason for resigning was that his fellow justices were flip-flopping. That's a strong accusation directed toward a collegial body. It may not be unethical, but I think the venue should have been the Supreme Court administrator," Angara said.

In the House of Representatives, Taguig-Pateros Rep. Peter Allan Cayetano asked the Supreme Court to look into the allegations of Sandoval against De Castro and Villaluz.

Cayetano said Sandoval's charge that the justices of the antigraft court had been inconsistent in their decisions was a "serious matter."

He said that Congress should now start amending the Constitution to make the judiciary more independent. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana*

Bishop hits Palace on justice monopoly

By Blanche S. Rivera

"WHERE do people go then for justice against those high-placed individuals in the executive department? How could the justice system be really free, true and fair when it is in the seeming monopoly of the executive branch of government?" Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said in a statement released yesterday.

He slammed Malacañang's "monopoly on justice" following the resignation of Sandiganbayan Justice Edilberto Sandoval.

Cruz said Malacañang's perceived control over the judicial branch of government was "one of the greatest social liabilities in the country today."

Cruz said the fact that Malacañang had the power to appoint judges to the lower courts and justices to the higher courts boosted speculation that it could significantly influence decisions.

"It is unrealistic to assume that the appointed figures are not beholden to the appointing power," the archbishop said.

"It is only the highly principled and morally upright appointees who would dare go against the wishes of the appointing power," he said.

Cruz, an uncompromising critic of gambling, had also been critical of Estrada during his presidency for the proliferation of gambling.

Cruz said proof of the fallibility of such executive power was the "selective justice" for the rich and powerful.

"That is why the 'big fishes' of all kinds of criminal activities and illegal syndicates can be found everywhere and anywhere else—except behind prison bars ... And that is why even renowned convicts still remain a favored and privileged class," he said.

He said that a jury system could work better in the Philippines as it would delegate the authority to judge even top government officials to the people.

Imelda asks SC to dismiss . . .

From page A1

the treasury warrants evidencing the alleged cash advances of P60 million out of the P57.954 million and P40 million complained of.

It also said there was "no evidence either" that she had "benefited from the proceeds" of the disbursements.

Insufficient proof

The Sandiganbayan junked the cases against the former first lady and her co-accused on March 27, 2002, after deeming that the government had failed to present "sufficient proof" against them.

Jimenez said reviving the cases would constitute double jeopardy. He also noted that the prosecutors were only able to document the release of P60 million.

He said there was "no evidence" that Imelda et al. "had come to the agreement to abstract P57.954 million and P40 million, if ever said amounts were abstracted."

Beyond reasonable doubt

"Conspiracy cannot be presumed," he pointed out. "By jurisprudence, it must be proved by the same quantum of evidence required to establish guilt—proof beyond reasonable doubt."

Jimenez disputed the government's claim that it had been denied due process in the case.

"In the case at bench, not only was the prosecution given an opportunity to be heard, but it presented evidence and rested its case before demurrer to evidence was filed [by the accused]. The full measure of due process was accorded the prosecution on its turn to present its case," he said.

DepEd execs get 20 years . . .

From page A1

A fifth defendant, Exuperia B. Austero, a former DepEd division administrative officer, was acquitted for lack of evidence linking her to the crime.

Conspiracy

In a 40-page decision, Justice Rodolfo Ponferrada of the antigraft court's fourth division said conspiracy was clear in the acts of Nava, Obenza, Tan and Miranda.

"This court finds that conspiracy between Nava and Obenza was established with moral certainty. With regard to the private persons, the court also finds that they conspired with the public officers," Ponferrada said, adding:

"The court considers the conduct of Tan and Miranda before, during and after the commission of the anomalous transaction as indicative of the joint purpose, concerted action and concurrence of sentiments."

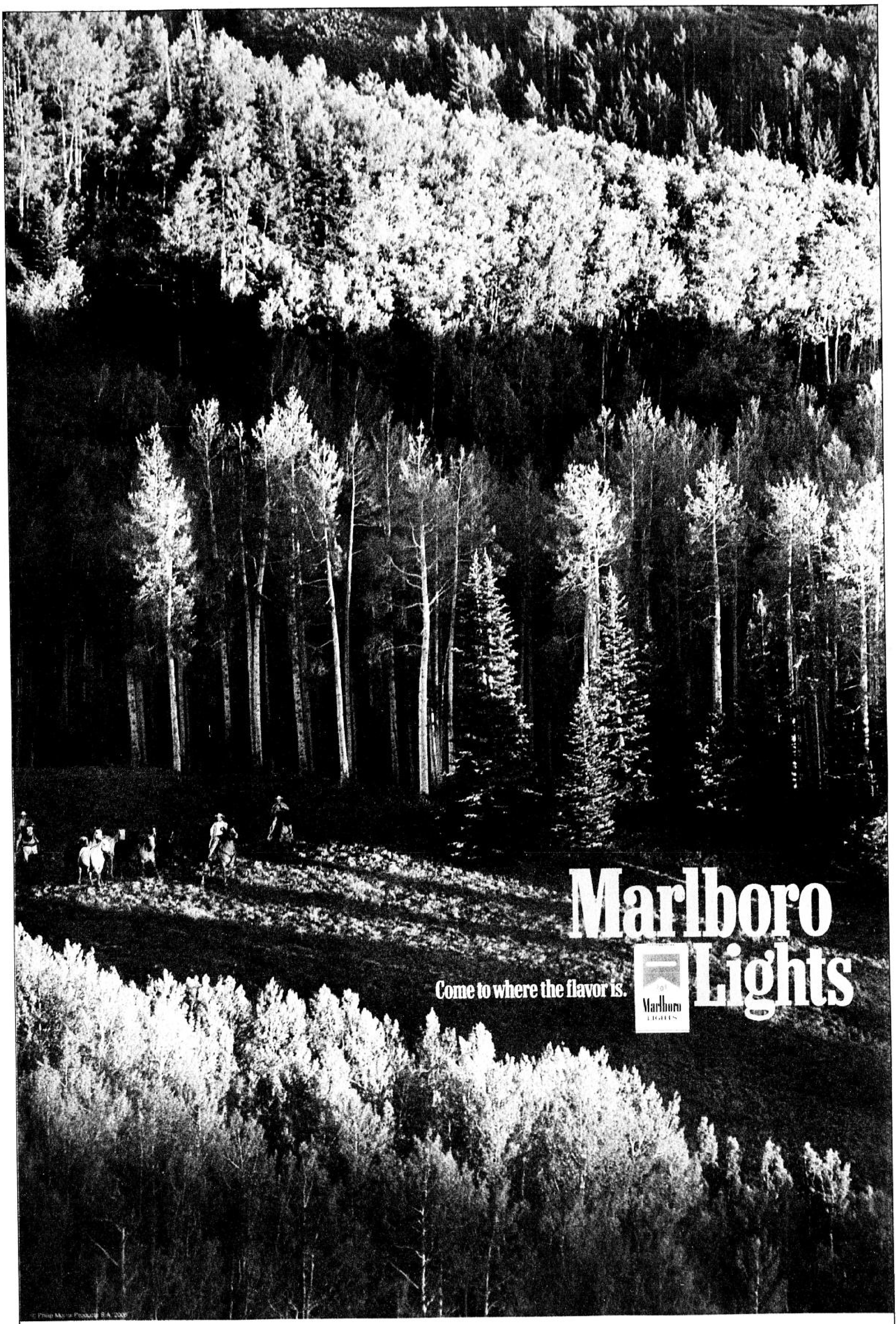
The irregularity was uncovered by the Commission on Audit, which found the acquisition of test tubes and nylon flask brushes "disadvantageous to the government."

The overprice ranged from 64 percent to 1,175 percent, according to the COA team led by auditor Laura Soriano.

The team found that the test tubes selling for P14.30 each were bought for P27.30 each, and that flask brushes each worth P8.80 were bought for P112.20 each.

The COA also found that Nava had instructed Obenza to dispense with the bidding process and purchase the items directly from supplier D'Implacable Enterprises, which is owned by Tan and represented by Miranda.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE


Marlboro
Lights
Come to where the flavor is.
Marlboro
LIGHTS
© Philip Morris Products S.A. 2000

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

"Reklamo ... Puro Reklamo,
Pero, 'Tay, Ano Ba Ang Nagawa N'yo
Para Sa Bayan?"

Enshrine Yourself Among The Gallery Of Heroes. Join Our United Stand In Pushing Our Country Forward.

The Global Filipino Networking Convention

January 20-22, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City Philippines

You can register 4 ways: By Phone: (63 32) 234-1282 • (63 32) 255-1230 • Fax: (63 32) 234-1463 • (63 32) 254-7850

Email: travelvision@skyinet.net • tourkonsult@yahoo.com • Website: www.thirdglobalcebu.com

Presented to you by:

SMART Simply Amazing!

PLDT

GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION
A GMA NETWORK SUBSIDIARY

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS
NaFFAA

In cooperation with:

CEBU

JCI

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS · FEARLESS VIEWS

MBC
MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

NETWORKS

NBC

92.3 JOEY
it's a groove thing!

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
PHILIPPINES

OFFICIAL SEAL
CITY OF CEBU

DDB

HS bridge program still up in the air

IS THE "bridge program" still on?

It seems education officials have not yet settled whether to continue their controversial one-year pre-high school program.

Two senior officials interviewed yesterday said the matter has not been decided yet.

One said the department will no longer conduct the High School Readiness Test on incoming public high school freshmen this June.

Those who fail the HSRT are supposed to take the "bridge program."

Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, however, insisted that the "bridge program" will continue next school year.

"We've not been told not to do it and we feel it's important," he said.

The bridge program is an additional tutorial year for Grade 6 graduates before they enter four-year high school.

Tests show that majority of Grade 6 graduates have not yet mastered their basic English, science and math.

A brainchild of former education secretary Edilberto de Jesus, the bridge program aims to arrest the declining competencies of public school graduates.

But due to public opposition and lack of support from Malacañang, the DepEd made the program optional this school year.

Secretary Florencio Abad, De Jesus' successor, said he will continue the bridge program against Malacañang's wishes.

Luz said the HSRT will be conducted by an outside agency, the Center for Education Measurement which also designed the test.

He did not say when the HSRT will be conducted.

The National Education Research and Testing Center, the testing arm of the DepEd, was not aware that another HSRT would be conducted at all.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

Teofista Franco; 87

TEOFISTA Martinez Franco of Malabon and Remedios, Malate, Manila died yesterday. She was 87.

She is survived by son Danilo, fashion designer, artist and former art director of the now-defunct Philippines Daily Express.

She was the widow of Pio San Pedro Franco of Hagonoy, Taguig, Rizal.

Her remains lie at the memorial chapel of St. Anthony Parish Church on corner Singalong and San Andres Streets, Manila.

Interment will be on Friday, 14 January, after an 8 a.m. Mass.

RentIT
The Computer Rental Specialist

SAVE
UP TO
92%
Based on 1 month rental vs. Purchase.

Short Term I. T. Requirement?

No maintenance headaches

Flexible Capital Management

Contact Us
WineDepot Bldg. Malugay St. Cor.
Ayala Ave., Makati City
Tel.: 817-2031 / 893-8050
Fax: 893-5981
email: rentit@pacific.net.ph

make your dreams come true

The future is in your hands. John Robert Powers has a program for you to make it happen!
Modeling. Acting. Personal Development. Executive Grooming.
Earn the worldwide John Robert Powers Diploma.

Call now!
8929511

John Robert Powers
www.johnrobertpowers.com
Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
CONVENIENT PARKING NEARBY

FREE CONSULTATION 0% INTEREST ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

THE LEADER CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE INDUSTRY WITH ITS P22 BILLION TOTAL FUND SIZE.

BPI (FUND MANAGER) IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALFM REMAINS THE LEADER IN THE COUNTRY'S MUTUAL FUND INDUSTRY WITH A P22 BILLION FUND SIZE AT THE END OF THE YEAR 2004. Moreover, ALFM has continued to outperform its benchmark 91-day TBill with its 7.5% net ROI for 2004, continuing to provide the consistent superior returns that it has become known for.

Beyond doubt, this is proof that you can get the best possible investment yields, only from the Philippines' biggest mutual fund—ALFM.

ALFM
(Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund, Inc.)
The Investors' No. 1 Choice

To invest, please feel free to call any of the telephone numbers listed below:

BPI Capital Corporation
(02) 845-5695 to 98; (02) 744-0758; (02) 929-9002; (02) 842-3327;
(02) 416-7393; (02) 633-3511; (034) 433-9535; (033) 336-1745;
(044) 562-2936; (074) 304-4502; (082) 235-3556

BPI Investment Management, Inc. (02) 845-5033 to 34

BPI Securities Corporation (02) 816-9190 Or 9192

A mutual fund is an open-end investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in which the investible cash of numerous investors are pooled with the aim of achieving a specific investment objective. MUTUAL FUNDS ARE NOT DEPOSIT PRODUCTS AND, AS SUCH, YIELDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED. Mutual funds are not PDIC-insured. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

How will gov't pay for Naia 3?

MALACAÑANG has refused to say where the cash-strapped government will get the money to compensate Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project, an amount that could go as high as P20 billion, or a tenth of the national budget deficit.

"That would be addressed at the proper time," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye at a briefing when asked if the government planned to borrow the money or bid out the airport facility.

Sen. Manuel Villar yesterday said the government could not dip into this year's national budget of P907.6 billion for the funds because this was not included in the general appropriation. The Department of Budget and Management had earlier said funding for Naia 3 would require congressional approval.

Bunye said the reimbursement of Piatco had become a secondary concern after the government made an initial down payment of $62.34 million (roughly P3.5 billion) to the firm to pave the way for the expropriation of Naia 3. The money reportedly came from the Manila International Airport Authority.

Bunye said the government's most pressing concern was getting Naia 3 opened by June.

While Malacañang was firm on a June opening, it was not ready to put this down in writing as demanded by airline companies seeking a formal commitment and six months lead time to ease their transfer to Naia 3. Bunye said this issue would be tackled by the MIAA.

On another front, the Pasay City judge hearing the Naia 3 expropriation case has refused to inhibit himself and accused Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo of taking orders from people other than the President.

Benipayo last week asked Regional Trial Court Branch 117 Judge Henrick F. Gingoyon to withdraw because he had "prejudged" the case, particularly on the issue of just compensation to Piatco.

Gingoyon, in an eight-page order, stood by his earlier ruling that the Land Bank of the Philippines must release the $62.34 million in favor of Piatco as partial payment for the terminal.

Though Gingoyon reversed himself in his new order, when he barred the government from awarding concessions in the new terminal, he ordered the government to submit a certificate of availability of funds to the court.

Gingoyon said that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had "declared that the government will pay Piatco just compensation as directed by the court."

Yet, Benipayo had said that the government may end up not paying Piatco anything at all, Gingoyon said in his order. "The counsel must be marching to the beat of a different drummer," he said.

Benipayo, in his motion for reconsideration, said the judge should not have come out with the ruling on the $62.34 million since there were competing claims for compensation.

He said Piatco partner Fraport AG was demanding $425 million plus damages, while contractor Takenaka Corp. was asking for $70 million.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Defense stalling in Garcia trial, gov't complains

By Alcuin Papa

LAWYERS locked horns in the ongoing court martial of former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) comptroller retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

The prosecution yesterday complained that the defense was delaying the presentation of key witnesses with its lengthy cross-examinations.

For almost three hours, Garcia's lawyer Constantino de Jesus probed and questioned witness for the prosecution, retired Lt. Cmdr. Primo Repizo, over the pre-trial investigation conducted on Garcia by the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability (OESPA).

Repizo is the former OESPA chief investigator who signed Garcia's charge sheet.

This delayed the testimony of Rosario Santos, finance officer of the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loans Inc. (AFPSLAI), who was expected to reveal Garcia's undeclared deposits, cars and other assets, much to the chagrin of the prosecution.

"Our next witness (Santos) has several times been prevented from taking the stand because of these innumerable delays," thundered prosecution lawyer Lt. Col. Pedro Herrera-Davila before the court martial.

"The civilian counsel has been given an extremely wide latitude (for the cross-examination). The civilian counsel has gone far and wide to assail the credibility of the witness (Repizo)," Davila told the court martial headed by Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio.

Docs to tackle RP's top killer

ATHEROSCLEROSIS, the country's No. 1 killer disease, will be the major focus of study and discussion of the 10th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Philippine Lipid Society in cooperation with 22 of the country's other top medical societies and professional health organizations.

Slated for Feb. 2 to 4 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, the three-day convention with the theme "Meeting Challenges in Atherosclerosis Prevention" will tackle the latest advances in the management of disseminated atherosclerosis and its prevention.

Atherosclerosis refers to deposits of yellowish plaques or atheromas containing cholesterol in the inner layer of the arteries. These cause the hardening of the blood vessels with the attendant clot formation or thrombosis, which is the basis of coronary and cerebral artery diseases.

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral, President of the Philippine Society of Hypertension, and Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, president of the Philippine Lipid Society, said the problems posed by atherosclerosis are getting bigger and more complex.

No tears for Joy

By Jed Ll. Bacason
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—There were no tears shed. Instead, the family and friends of Kathryn Joy Lomadilla who died in Thailand after massive tsunamis swallowed parts of South Asia, shared laughter and stories when her ashes were brought to her alma mater.

"We have no reason to mourn because we know that Joy is with Him now," said Joy's sister, Kristine May, at the Mass held Monday in the Aquinas University of Legazpi. "She is in a better place than we are now."

In the Mass attended by Joy's former classmates, mentors and her family, Kristine May recalled to them a story that she called "nothing short of a miracle."

She narrated how a rich Thai family initially claimed Joy's body after mistaking it for that of their missing 42-year-old relative.

"We were told by the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok that a body of a Filipina who had features similar to Joy's was found and was being claimed by Thais," she said.

Kristine May said she did not waste a minute upon hearing this and immediately checked the body. She found out it was her sister's.

Had it been not her sister's remains, Kristine May said, they would have been forced to search among the thousands of bodies that littered the streets of Phuket, a popular tourist destination in Thailand.

"This Thai family, after claiming my sister's body as theirs, actually saved Joy's body from being buried in a mass grave like all those bodies that were unclaimed," she added.

According to Kristine May, the Thais said their sister was wearing the same shirt and pants as those worn by Joy when giant waves slammed into her house. They even had the same haircut and, strangely, their cellular phone units were similar.

When that Thai family showed Kristine Joy a photo of their relative, she said it was not impossible to mistake one for the other.

"They had similar cheeks, lips, nose and smile even though she was 42 years old and Joy was just 22," Kristine May said.

But she told the Thai family that she recognized Joy not by her face but by the brassiere that she gave her because it had a unique design.

One of the relatives of the missing Thai replied, "That's funny to hear because we also gave the very same brassiere to our sister."

Only the bracelet her boyfriend gave her and the DNA tests proved Joy's identity.

"We are very thankful to the Thai family for rescuing Joy's body and we also pray that they find their sister's body," Kristine May said.

She added that when they left for Manila on Jan. 2, Khao Lak, the place where Joy worked in Thailand, still had about 6,000 bodies missing or unclaimed.

Joy, holder of a Bachelor of Science in Education from the Aquinas University of Legazpi, left the Philippines on Aug. 22, 2003, to work in Thailand.

She and her friends were in their quarters in Sofitel Magic Lagoon Resort and Spa on Khao Lak Island when the killer waves struck.

Joy's ashes were brought to her hometown in Sorsogon last Monday.

US envoy renews support for GMA

By Jerome Aning

UNITED States Ambassador Francis Ricciardone yesterday assured the "legitimate" government of President Macapagal-Arroyo of continued Washington support amid rumored plots to destabilize her administration.

Ricciardone said the US would not recognize "extra-constitutional" means to destabilize Ms Arroyo's government even as he underscored closer US-Philippine relations for 2005 in the fields of security and economic cooperation.

"I don't think that in any country, people would like to see extra-constitutional changes. We will certainly be opposed to that; any change should be done in a constitutional manner," the US ambassador told the INQUIRER in in a phone interview.

Ricciardone reiterated Washington's policy of not recognizing governments that came to power unlawfully or through extra-constitutional means.

The US envoy blamed "silly, juvenile politicians" for fabricating the alleged plots to overthrow the government which gained steam during the funeral of former presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and the operation of former President Joseph Estrada in Hongkong.

Ricciardone clarified that while there were no serious threats to Philippine democracy as of this moment, Filipinos should guard it. He described Philippine democracy as stable, with its agencies and institutions functioning generally well.

"Philippine democracy has gone to its constitutional process and renewed its legitimacy with the (May 2004) elections," the US envoy said, adding that President Arroyo was proclaimed the victor by Congress and "there was no question" that her government was legitimate.

Comparing Mrs. Arroyo's close victory to President George W. Bush's, Ricciardone said political parties that were defeated or were not satisfied with the current government should just lick their wounds and work to come out stronger in the next elections.

"We are keen to see people free to choose their own leaders. Those who wanted change should do so through the ballot," he added.

Japan firm on Japayuki restrictions

DESPITE Manila's appeals for deferment, Tokyo is bent on implementing new immigration policies that would affect the deployment of Filipino overseas performing artists (OPAs) to Japan, the Japanese Embassy said yesterday.

"We are committed not to change our stance because there is no reason for a moratorium," embassy press officer Shuhei Ogawa told reporters.

Ogawa said the new immigration rules requiring two-year schooling or experience for Filipino and other foreign OPAs were designed to curb illegal workers in the country.

Jerome Aning

IWATA Paper Shredder NEW MODELS
Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire
15's capacity CROSS-CUT S-1500 P8,600
7's capacity CROSS-CUT S-650 P7,800
15's capacity (A4/80gsm) 7's capacity 41x32x62cm (Machine Size) 34x24x56cm 4x38mm (Shred Size) 2x15mm
SPL FEATURES: Auto ON/OFF, Paper Jam Reverse Key, Thermal Overload Protection, Infra-Red Sensor for Auto ON/OFF, Auto Shut-Off on Bin Removal, Safety Window
SOLE AGENT COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 000 Del Monte Mansion Building Del Monte Avenue cor 916 Speaker Perez Street, Quezon City
Tels 410-4317, 740-3815, 742-8138 to 40, 749-8149, 411-2396 to 98
Telefax 411-2395 Fax 411-2399 email colent@pidi.net

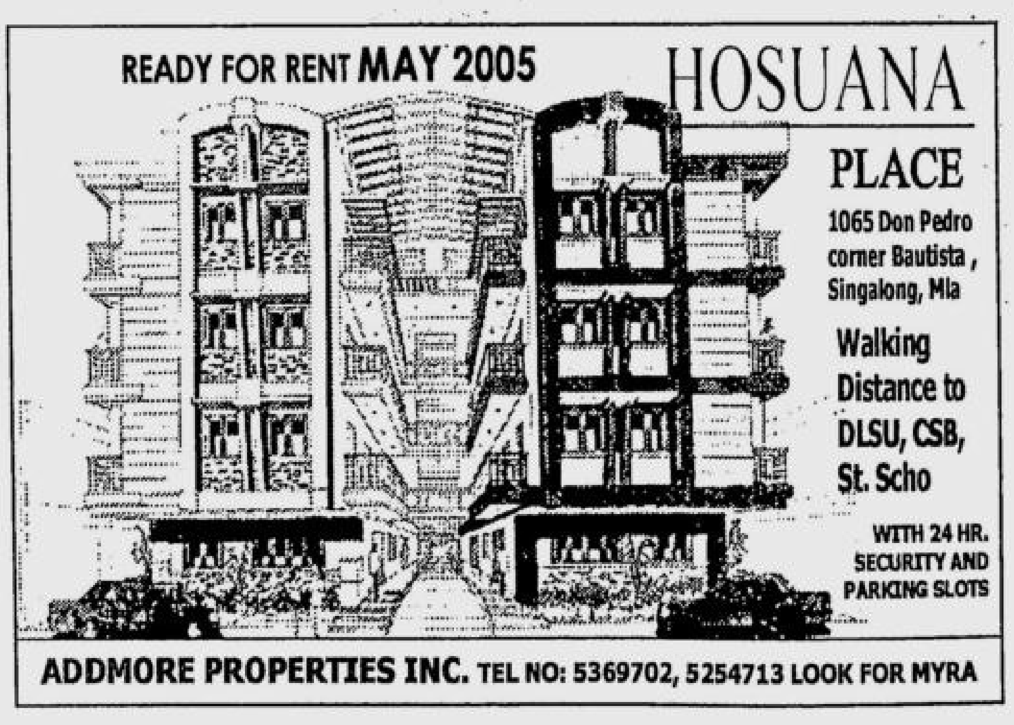
COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS P49,900. ONLY
P15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE P15,000. ONLY
P15,000. ONLY RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC.
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

We supply BEST SELLING Foods!!!
1. Potato Balls
2. Asstd HK Dimsum
3. 5-in-1 Mini Pao
4. Golden Fried Asado/ Bola-Bola/Tuna Pao
5. Nachos & Display Warmers
6. Stuffed Shrimps
7. 5-in-1 Balls
8. Chicken & Beef Cocktail Hotdogs
9. Beef Footlong
10. Chicken Balls
11. French Fries
Pls. Call MOSES 734-9088 / 734-9114

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
Only P2,500 PER COURSE
SCB The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP1 On Business & Technical Writing
WP2 On Feature & Creative Writing
JCP On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't., + Reading and Comprehension for kids
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI • 845-0886 / 753-1049 ALABANG • 753-1048

IWATA TIME RECORDERS
DURABLE & RELIABLE, ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
FREE DEMO
Digital Clock
Operates during brownouts
Uses 6 Columns Time Card
Analog Clock
P9,300.00 MODEL: CH-1A
P9,500 = E2A 2color printing Red for Late Black for Punctual
P12,850.00 MODEL: CW-1A
E2A 2Color & CH-1A /CW-1A 1Color Printing, Programmable Alarm, Memory & Battery Back-Up for brown-out use, Mark printing for Late & O.T., Dual Time Display, Perpetual Calendar
VERY HEAVY DUTY
SOLE DIST.:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels. 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 E-mail: colent@sfi.com.ph

A GREAT YEAR FOR A GREAT BUSINESS
18 MONTHS TO PAY 0% INTEREST RATE
There are 3 Good Reasons why you should choose WRI Products.
QUALITY, SERVICE, PRICE
GRAB A PACKAGE OF YOUR CHOICE! BIG DISCOUNT ON CASH BUYERS!
Our Other Offers: BOTTLING PACKAGES BLOW MOULDING PACKAGES ICE MACHINE AND MANY MORE
WATER STATION FRANCHISE PACKAGE
For Inquiries CALL RIGHT NOW!
(02) 926-5776
(02) 926-5790
WATER RESOURCES INT'L (WRI) PHILS., INC.
Txt or Call: (0926) 281-7635
E-Mail: wriphilinc@yahoo.com Cagayan de Oro: (088) 858-7785
(0919) 4888-508
*Limited Offer Only



READY FOR RENT MAY 2005
HOSUANA PLACE
1065 Don Pedro corner Bautista, Singalong, Mla
Walking Distance to DLSU, CSB, St. Scho
WITH 24 HR. SECURITY AND PARKING SLOTS
ADDMORE PROPERTIES INC. TEL NO: 5369702, 5254713 LOOK FOR MYRA

High-earning water bottling business is more profitable with its own P.E.T. bottle blow molding machine.
NATIONAL BOTTLING EQUIPMENTS
NBE- 82215-IL IN-LINE WATER BOTTLING MACHINE
HIGHLY ADVANCED ... ... FULLY AUTOMATED
■ BOTTLE RINSING
■ FILLING
■ CAPPING
NATIONAL BLOW MOLDING MACHINE
PET Bottle Stretch-Blow Molding Machine
PET Preform (Rotary) Heating Machine
NBM 1600S-(2B1H)
(50mL to 2 liter)
Combined production rate up to 1,600 bottles per hour using the 2 sets of twin-cavity molds
Production Capacity :
■ 350mL - 3,000 bottles per hour
■ 500mL - 2,200 bottles per hour
■ 1 liter - 1,500 bottles per hour
We design and install complete lines of commercial and industrial water treatment and purification systems.
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL:
ATT AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY, INC.
"THE WATER TREATMENT SPECIALIST"
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
TEL. # 367-7134 / 367-7135
0917-6262708
CEBU REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
TEL. # (032) 344-6473
0917-6258188
Toll Free 1800-102882-328

Reader's Digest
MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS
(READER'S DIGEST Product worth P1,800.00)

NOVEMBER 2004 DRAW
WINNERS
SINGAPORE – 49 PHILIPPINES – 28
ABADIANO, REYNALDO H
ABALORIO, DOMINA
ABOITIZ, REMEDIOS
ALAGANO, LOURDES G
AMURAO, NENA A
ANG, EMIE Y
ANG, JORGE CELSO P
ARELLANO, DENNIS LUIS M
ASCANO, RICARDO A
BARNES, BERNADETH B
BARNES, JAMES L
BARTOLO JR, RENATO B
BUENAVENTURA, GERALDINE U
CARBONELL, KATE
CUEVAS, BER
DUMLAO, MIGUEL T
GABUNA, TIMOTHY
GALENDE, PEDRO
HEYROSA, ANGELITA S
JARANTILLA, ROLANDO
JARO, AMELIA J
LONTOC, JUNE RIZALINA
MADAYAG, NELSON
MANTE, VIDA LORNA M
MARIANO, FR FABIAN
MARTINEZ JR, GERMAN
MONEVA, CONSOLACION
MONTINOLA, LEONIDA C
NAFARRETE JR, PERPETUO
NAVAL, DOMINGO
NG, ANDREWARAGA, RIZALINO M
PACHECO, MA MIRANDA G
PADILLA JR, FRANCISCO
POTENCIANO, TEODORA T
RAMOS, ESMERALDO S
REFOREAL, NICOMEDES A
REYES, MARIA A
RIVADELO, CESAR
ROSALES, ARABELLE
ROSALES, MARINA J
ROTOR, ROGER
ROURA, REYNALDO
SANCHEZ, LORRAINE MD
SEGURA, OLIVERIO
SILABAY, ANITA ALECTES L
UNTIVERO, LEAH KRISTINE C
VELOSO, BERNADETTA
YANG, IMELDA B
YEO, LILIBETH
YU, OLIVIA ANN A

DECEMBER 2004 DRAW
WINNERS
SINGAPORE – 56 PHILIPPINES – 42
AGBULOS, MARY ANN
ALLAYBAN, RODOLFO C
ALTOVEROS, ERNESTO
ANCHETA, JUN
BAELLO, PERPETUA F
BELMES, REGINA B
BELTRAN, HERMINIO S JR
BUSICO, ALFREDO
CANUBA, MENANDRA
CHUPUNGCO, MA CECILIA A
COCHING, NORMA A
COLANSE, ANESIA R
DACLAN, ATTY PORFIRIO S
DAVID, MA PAULITA A
DIAGO, ARTURO B JR
DIZON, ERNESTO P
DIZON, FRANCISCO S
GUTIERREZ, MERCEDES T
INIGUEZ, DEOGRACIAS
KABAYAO, GILOPEZ
LAVIN, OSCAR R
MADELO, LORNA
MAKARAIG, LYDIA
NAPAO, JERRY
ONG, LINDA B
ORAIZ, NATIVIDAD L
PENA, ANUNCIACION
PISO, FE MERCEDES F
RAMIREZ, MANUEL S
REYES, LILIA SUSAN B
RODRIGUEZ, ANTOINETTE
SAZON, CARLOS D
SOLIS, BARBARA
TAMBUNTING, VIRGINIA
TONOGBANUA, JESSAMYN
TOPACIO, CECILIA
UY BICO, CLARA
VILLANUEVA, SVEA ANGELA M
VILLAROYA, RAUL
BANQUIL, BENEDICT
YU, ATTY NERI B
ZABALLERO, DINO L

JANUARY 2005 DRAW
WINNERS
SINGAPORE – 54 PHILIPPINES – 16
BACHMAN JR, KURT S
CALVARIO, ROMULO V
DELENA, ANTONIO G
DONATO, ADONIS B
FLORES, THELMA F
GASTON, IRENE D
HOMERES, SOLEDAD
JOVES, CONSUELO
LAVIN, MARIO R
MEDINA, PATRICIA
NILO, MARILYN PANTUA,
BIMELDA D
TAMURA, ROWENA
TERUEL, ASUNCION L
TOBIAS MD, EUFEMIA M
TORRES, MELANIE MAE

The Reader's Digest official list of winners should all cases be conclusive. All the winners will be notified by registered mail on how to claim the prize. In case of queries, please contact us at A-Z DIRECT MARKETING INC. 723 Sgt Bumatay St. Plainview Mandaluyong City 1550

TSUNAMI MEDICAL RELIEF

2nd RP mission off to Aceh

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday sent a second medical mission to tsunami-ravaged Indonesia to assist in implementing public health measures in Banda Aceh, the most devastated area.

The first team of 11 doctors, nurses and environmental sanitation engineers pooled by the Department of Health flew to Jakarta at 8 a.m. yesterday for their 15-day medical mission.

The second team, composed mostly of surgeons, is set to leave also for Indonesia later this week.

Both teams will serve in Banda Aceh after coordinating with the central government in Jakarta.

Dr. Carmencita Banatin, director of the DOH's Health Emergency Staff, said the Indonesian government had requested for hospital-based workers who would assist in the treatment of injuries and trauma.

"They will be there for 15 days unless there is a request for an extension, like in the case of the first medical mission we sent to Sri Lanka," Banatin said during the weekly health forum at Annabel's, a restaurant in Quezon City.

The first mission, composed of five doctors, five nurses and two sanitation engineers, were sent to Sri Lanka last week.

They were supposed to stay in southern Sri Lanka for 10 days, but they requested for an extension because they had not finished going to the camps, Banatin said.

The medical team that left for Indonesia yesterday was led by Dr. Perfecta Padilla. She was with Jerry Lorca Porras, Remedios Guerrero and Thelma Barrera.

Experts from Mindanao

Also in the group were seven experts from Mindanao: Sukarno Asri, Julie Villadolid, Joseph Quiling, Sanghula Laja, Raffy Tuloganda, Falmi Usman and Kamarudin Kunakon.

"We chose people from Mindanao because they speak the same language (in Indonesia). It will make things easier for our team," Banatin said.

She said the second medical team to Indonesia would be composed of orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, a pediatrician, an internist, and nurses who will be based in hospitals in Aceh for 10 days.

"Like the first team, the second batch's main responsibility will be to provide medical assistance to victims and to coordinate with other teams in the area," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement.

The second team to Indonesia will be led by Dr. Roberto Dalmacion of the Quirino Memorial Medical Center and is composed of doctors Erwin Panliboton, Diego Cantos, Robert Abueg, Rodolfo Amurao, Analisa Amurao, John Maliga and Norman Rivero.

They will be accompanied by nurses Laura Libunao, Willie Veloria, Vicente Morato Jr. and Patrick Evangelista.

The deployment of the medical teams is part of the Philippines' human relief assistance commitment to Indonesia and other Asian neighbors who suffered tremendously from the tsunami on Dec. 26.

The Philippines had earlier sent forensics experts to Thailand, which requested for assistance in identifying the dead.

Five Filipinos in Thailand perished in the tsunami, 13 are still missing, 27 were repatriated from Thailand and 29 survivors chose to stay in Thailand to work.

OFW 'celebrities' join remittance drive

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FAMOUS overseas Filipino workers have joined the government's campaign to encourage millions of OFWs to send an additional $20 a month to their families in the Philippines.

The Office of External Affairs, Malacañang's newly-established office dealing with various sectoral groups, announced yesterday that truck driver Angelo de la Cruz and former domestic helper Sarah Balabagan had joined migrant workers' groups in supporting the OEA's "Dagdag Padala sa Pamilya" program.

According to the newly-created office, Russel Contemplacion, daughter of maid Flor Contemplacion who was executed in Singapore, was also joining the campaign, as well as organizations of OFW families and other migrant workers' groups.

Contemplacion's execution sparked massive nationwide protests, resulting in the firing of top labor and foreign affairs officials during the Ramos administration.

De la Cruz made headlines across the world when he was abducted by Iraqi rebels last July, forcing President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw the small Philippine humanitarian contingent in Iraq to save him from being executed. The pullout strained diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the United States.

Balabagan achieved heroine status when she fought off and killed her employer who tried to rape her. She served time in prison but was released after the government and various sectors took up her case.

To help keep the economy afloat, Ms Arroyo has asked some eight million overseas Filipinos to send an additional $20 a month to their families in the Philippines.

The $20, on top of their regular remittances, could infuse an additional $160 million a month to the economy, according to the OEA.

Poe Gratela, OEA coordinator for OFW concerns, said groups supporting the campaign include the United Seamen's Wives Welfare Association of the Philippines, Kalahi Advocates for Overseas Filipinos, Akbay Pinoy, Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Institute for Social Economic, Cultural and Environmental Concerns.

He said OFW organizations in Asia and the Middle East were also endorsing the program.

YOUR FOOL-PROOF TIME RECORD SYSTEM HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!
David-Link FingerScan
Advantages:
- Finger-driven technology in 1 sec. ID time or less
- Works well with dry, moist or even rough fingertips
- Stand alone capability even without a PC
- 30,000-record storage (downloadable)
- 1,000-user capacity

David-Link Bioclock III
David-Link Bioclock I
With software support from:
Time and Attendance Management Software (bundled with Fingerscan)
Complete Payroll Management Software (Optional)
We also offer Time Recorders, Check Writers, Binding Machines, Laminators, Money Counters, Duplicators & other office equipment.
Tel. nos.: 898-3431 / 898-3432 / 890-5310 / 890-5320 / 890-5327 / 896-7764
website: www.e-davidlink.com e-mail us at: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR
OXFORD MANSION
PASIG ROYALE MANSION
A Special Holiday Treat for the Family
for as low as P6,088 monthly
for as low as P5,300 monthly
NEW SANTOLAN, PASIG CITY
CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING
NEAR LRT-2 SANTOLAN STATION
IN-HOUSE FINANCING &
NO DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME AVAILABLE
CITYLAND 2003 Leading Condominium Developer (Presidential Awardee)
MODEL UNITS READY FOR VIEWING
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net (0919)310-8553

NIBOR
CASH for DIAMONDS
Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines
top caliber appraisals from INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS
- INSTANT CASH for 1 1/2 carat & above, antiques and modern jewelry. Also old-cut diamonds.
- WE ACCEPT LOANS on important diamonds and jewelry.

ALL TRANSACTIONS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
Tel. Nos.: 725-1823/ 726-1931 Mobile No.: (0917) 536-2456
Monday-Sunday 10am-5pm
Central Jewelry At The Jewellery, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, M.M.

DLI GENERICS SINCE 1986
Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!
Suggested Retail Price August 8, 2004 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)		DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa pagtatae)				
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓	1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.
Huwag ipagpapalit sa iba! Hanapin ang tatak DLI. If out of stock, call 711-3933 712-4990 743-1636
Watsons YOUR PERSONAL STORE
EMILENE'S PHARMACY
Carlos SuperDrug
Rose Pharmacy
For factory prices visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS PABX
- Call Transfer
- Music-On-Hold
- Call Privacy
- Intercom

AS LOW AS P8,800
INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77

Immigrating to Canada or New Zealand?

Join us on the 9th of February, 2005, 9:30 am at the Makati Shangri La Hotel, Parañaque Room, to discover all you need to know about immigrating to Canada and New Zealand.

Our resource speakers and consultants are Immigration specialists from Canada and New Zealand who will personally conduct the immigration assessment and provide personal consultation.

Seminar fee of Ps. 14,500.00 per participant includes:

- Personal CONSULTATION,
- Immigration ASSESSMENT, and
- Fee CREDIT towards permanent residence application to Canada or New Zealand made through our office

For registration or more information, contact:

Ms. Minda Kinkito or
Ms. Mila Soriano at:

Soo Gutierrez Leogardo & Lee
Law Offices
9th Floor Sage House
110 VA Rufino Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel,: 812 8861
Fax: 817 9671
Email: cannzimm@hotmail.com

Seminar Schedule:

9:30 am to 11:00 am – Canadian Immigration overview
11:30 am to 1:00 pm – New Zealand Immigration overview

Personal Consultations will be scheduled upon registration.

REGISTER NOW AS SPACE IS LIMITED.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Growing Market

Water distribution is an ever growing market.
It is still relatively young.

Expert Help

Our team of experts, world-class equipment, and training program will help you get started.

Break Free From Routine

There are few things more fulfilling than building your own business and watching it grow.
Start from a low PhP 75,000.00 investment.

MR. EDWARD TOBIAS
30 Yrs. Old
Crystal Clear Franchisee Since 1997

Main Office: Bldg. #369 Dr. Sixto Antonio Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City.
Tel.: 642-4489/640-4954/4989 Telefax: 640-4908
Cel.: (0917) 852-5043 / (0920) 950-4776

North Luzon Office: AMD Bldg. Mc Arthur Highway Tarlac City.
Tel.: (045) 611-4122
Cel.: (0917) 852-5043 / (0920) 950-4776

South Luzon Office: Maraouy Lipa, Batangas City.
Tel. #: (043) 757-3822 / 757-3831
Cel.: (0918) 592-5517

Cebu Office: Ibabao, Mandaue City.
Tel.#: (032) 344-8889
Cel.: (0920) 554-1307

Davao Office: Elpidio Quirino Avenue, Davao City
Tel.#: (082) 300-3448 • (082) 305-5722
Cel.: (0917) 240-0356

Technology Perfected By:
SOLEREX WATER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Since 1986
Crystal Clear® Purified Drinking Water

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

$147-M al-Qaida, Taliban assets seized

UNITED NATIONS—Countries around the world have seized or frozen $147 million in assets belonging to 435 individuals and groups linked to the Taliban or al-Qaida, a US Treasury official said Monday.

Juan Zarate, an assistant secretary of the US Treasury, said international efforts to cut off funding to key figures and organizations with terrorist links have been effective.

"We think it is now harder, costlier and riskier for al-Qaida to raise and move money," Zarate told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against the former Afghan rulers and Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

UN sanctions require all 191 UN member states to impose a travel ban and arms embargo against a list of those linked to the Taliban or al-Qaida and to freeze their financial assets. The list currently includes 320 individuals and 115 groups.

"We've frozen now approximately $147 million in terrorist-related assets based on this process," Zarate said. "We know that the designation process not only freezes assets but it cuts off channels of funding for al-Qaida. It deters those who would otherwise support al-Qaida and other like-minded terrorist groups."

He didn't identify which countries had frozen funds but said the number has increased. "We think frankly there's probably more out there that's been seized or frozen that's been underreported," he added.

Zarate, who is responsible for trying to combat terrorist financing, called the UN sanctions committee "one of the most potent bodies in the world in combating terrorist financing" and said its work over the past three years "has yielded promising initial results."

In his statement to the closed-door committee meeting, which was released afterwards by the US Mission to the United Nations, Zarate said dozens of countries had joined the United States in submitting the names of individuals and groups for the list and scores of countries had adopted new laws to fight terrorist financing or were in the process of doing so.

"However, this must be the beginning, and not the end of our efforts," he said. "The US and all countries can and must improve our individual and collective efforts to develop and implement effective terrorist financing sanctions regimes."

US Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs E. Anthony Wayne said the sanctions committee should consider three ways to improve the implementation of sanctions: enhance the sanctions list, promote international standards, and promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

"One of the very important effects of the UN resolution (authorizing sanctions) is the obligation it has on governments to cooperate," Wayne said. "We found that the vast, vast majority of governments are very sincere in wanting to apply those requirements. Sometimes they need to learn to do it better along the way."

Zarate said the international community has become "a bit of a victim of our own success in that our ability to isolate individuals and entities from the formal financial system has led to an adaptation by terrorist groups like al-Qaida to use more informal ways of moving and raising money." *AP*

Corruption seen diverting aid from tsunami victims

JAKARTA—As cash donations pour in from around the world for the victims of Asia's tsunami, fears are rife that corruption will divert big chunks of the aid money before it reaches the disaster zone.

Foreign governments and donor institutions such as the World Bank—along with private citizens from London to Beijing—have opened their pocketbooks for the tsunami crisis, with pledged aid and donations reaching more than $7 billion by Tuesday.

For Indonesia, ranked among the most corrupt countries in the world last year by Berlin-based watchdog Transparency International, the influx is both a lifeline for desperate victims and a temptation for unscrupulous officials.

For the United Nations, it's chance to prove it can manage the finances of major humanitarian missions after accusations it mishandled its oil-for-food program in Iraq. Billions of dollars are believed to have been lost during that seven-year program from kickbacks and skimming off contracts.

Signaling the need to keep tight tabs on the unprecedented outpouring of funds, the UN has accepted a no-fee offer from accounting and consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers to help track tsunami aid, said Kevin Kennedy, a senior official in the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Among the measures being prepared are a way to let the public track every aid dollar via a website and the drafting of new rules to protect UN staff whistle-blowers.

Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who took office in October pledging to eradicate graft, has said he will keep a sharp eye on aid distribution. The Minister for Social Welfare, Alwi Shihab, has told reporters relief payments will be audited so as to avoid "damage by greedy hands."

But analysts say the scale of the foreign assistance headed for Indonesia will put even the best intentions to the test.

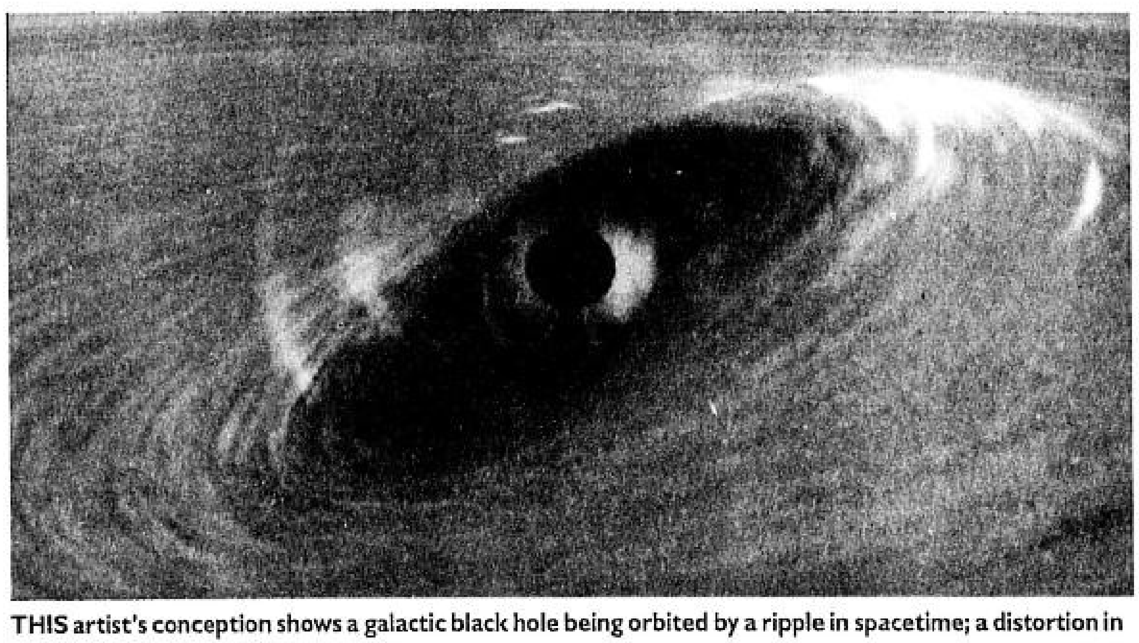
"Problems with corruption are so high it is almost inevitable," said Sidney Jones, an Indonesia expert with the International Crisis Group. "There is simply no history in Indonesia of the monitoring mechanism necessary to stop it."

Corruption watchdogs are already receiving scattered reports of problems with aid in Aceh, where officials have been accused of small-scale pilfering or reselling of aid supplies.

Analysts say the situation is likely to worsen once emergency relief shifts to reconstruction work, with big projects promising bigger profits for corrupt officials. "If you look at the past, 30 to 40 percent (of aid) can be lost," Djani said.

Most aid agencies have thus far kept quiet about their fears, anxious not to discourage contributions.

"We are aware corruption is kind of rife, but we're hoping it's not going to happen," an aid worker in Aceh said. "We have to hope that ultimately people are going to get what they need." *Reuters, AP, AFP*



THIS artist's conception shows a galactic black hole being orbited by a ripple in spacetime; a distortion in the fabric of space itself. REUTERS

Cosmic waves seen around black holes

SAN DIEGO—Black holes may actually drag the fabric of space and time around them as they spin, creating waves for cosmic material to surf on, astronomers said on Monday.

This is new evidence that some black holes spin, even as they pull in everything around them, including light.

Additional research shows that black holes can twirl material at tremendous speed, as fast as 33,000 km per second.

"Gas whipping around the black hole has no choice but to ride that wave," Jon Miller of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics said. "Albert Einstein predicted this over 80 years ago, and now we are starting to see evidence for it."

Because black holes draw in everything, even light, they themselves are invisible. But astronomers have long studied what happens just outside the black hole, and have found what they call an accretion disk—a round pancake of material, often made up of material sucked from a nearby star that acts as a black hole's companion and food source.

One characteristic that astronomers watch at the mouth of black holes is the flickering of X-ray light. It would make sense that the flickers would come very fast, since black holes spin so rapidly.

It was more puzzling when the flickering X-rays came more slowly, at as little as one 100th the speed of the fast flickers, Miller told reporters at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Miller and his colleagues theorize that in one black hole system they studied, the slower flickering could be the frequency of a space-time warp. In that case, the flickers—known as quasi-periodic oscillations—could be caused by the fabric of space itself churning around the black hole in a wave.

Another team of researchers studying a different black hole detected three sun-sized blobs of gas whirling around in the hole's accretion disk.

By looking at iron atoms, which are good markers for what is occurring around a black hole, the scientists figured that these blobs made one complete trip around the black hole in a day, at speeds up to 33,000 km per second.

Since these blobs were about as far from the black hole as Jupiter is from the sun, this was remarkable, said Jane Turner of Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center. It takes Jupiter 12 years to go around the sun. *Reuters*

CBS fires 4 top execs for Bush report

NEW YORK—CBS issued a damning independent review of mistakes related to last fall's "60 Minutes Wednesday" report on President George W. Bush's National Guard service and fired three news executives and a producer for their "myopic zeal" in rushing it on the air.

The review released Monday said CBS compounded the damage with a circle-the-wagons mentality once the report came under fire. The independent investigators added, however, that they found no evidence of a political bias against Bush.

CBS News President Andrew Heyward and Dan Rather, who announced in November he was stepping down as the anchor of "CBS Evening News," escaped without any disciplinary action. But Rather, who narrated the Sept. 8 story and subsequent follow-ups, was criticized by CBS chief executive Leslie Moonves for "errors of credulity and over-enthusiasm."

"The system broke down on this one, for sure," said Louis D. Boccardi, retired chief executive officer of The Associated Press, who conducted the investigation along with former Republican Attorney General Dick Thornburgh. They delivered their 224-page report to Moonves last week.

Fired were Mary Mapes, the story's producer; Josh Howard, executive producer of "60 Minutes Wednesday"; Howard's top deputy, Mary Murphy; and CBS News senior vice president Betsy West.

The "60 Minutes" TV news magazine story had questioned Bush's Vietnam War-era commitment to service in the Texas Air National Guard. Mapes began reporting the story in 1999, but the report centered on documents obtained only weeks earlier, supposedly written by Bush's commander, the late Lt. Col. Jerry Killian. The memos said that then 1st Lieutenant Bush did not take a mandatory medical exam and that Killian reportedly felt pressured to sugarcoat an evaluation of him.

Questions were quickly raised about the typed memos, with some document experts saying it appeared they contained a computer character inconsistent with typewriters at the time.

Boccardi and Thornburgh found that Mapes had said the documents were authenticated, when in fact she had found only one expert to vouch for only one signature in the memo. They said she also failed to look into the background of her source, retired Texas Army National Guard Lt. Col. Bill Burkett; to find Burkett's source; or to find other corroboration of the charges. *AP*

Win a Lifestyle
RAFFLE PROMO
Get a chance to pick and win your dreams!
☐ Drive a brand new Honda Jazz (Type A - Manual Transmission)
Representation only
☐ Half a million (Php 500,000.00) Shopping Spree at Rustan's Department Store
☐ Caribbean Cruise Getaway 7 nights for two plus USD 1,000 pocket money
Representation only
☐ Half a Million (Php 500,000.00) Jewelry Shopping at Miladay
This photo was taken at THE SPA,Bel-Air.

SO HURRY! Freshen up with a brand new lifestyle at HCG today!

Promo runs from **September 23, 2004 to January 31, 2005** only.

Simply buy HCG products. For every Php5,000.00 worth of items, you get one raffle stub. This entitles you to grab your chance to choose and win the lifestyle you want.

Watch out for the following raffle draw dates and wait for our announcement of winners.

Cut-off Period (Raffle Coupons of Customers)	Schedule of Draws
September 23-October 31, 2004	Monday, November 15, 2004
November 1-30, 2004	Wednesday, December 15, 2004
December 1-31, 2004	Saturday, January 15, 2005
January 1-31, 2005	Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Hochang Philippines Corporation

ISO 9001:2000

HCG Bathroom Beautiful

See posters and leaflets for details.

HONDA Rustan's Royal Caribbean International Miladay Jewels

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2097 Series of 2004

Bush invites Abbas to Washington, eyes direct talks

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush said Monday he would invite Palestinian president-elect Mahmoud Abbas to Washington for talks and linked the success of the Palestinian vote to his hopes for Iraq later this month.

"I offer my congratulations to Abu Mazen. I look forward to talking to him at the appropriate time. I look forward to welcoming him here to Washington if he chooses to come here," Bush told reporters at the White House.

Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen, scored a landslide victory in Sunday's election to find a successor to the late Yasser Arafat. Bush had refused all contact with Arafat, accusing him of doing too little to prevent attacks on Israel by radical groups.

"This is a man who has been elected by what appears to be a good-sized vote," said Bush. "I'm heartened by the elections."

Later in the day, Bush telephoned Abbas to congratulate him on his victory and reaffirm his commitment to helping Palestinians create a "free and democratic" state as well as "tackle key issues like security, terrorism, economic growth and building democratic institutions," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

Abbas visited the White House as the Palestinian prime minister in 2003. But he stood down a few months later following several disagreements with Arafat.

The US leader backed a conference being organized by Britain on March 1-2 on Palestinian security and political and economic reforms. The conference was "aimed at helping the Palestinians develop the institutions necessary to support Abu Mazen's vision of a peaceful, active, vibrant state to become reality," he said.

Bush also took the opportunity to link the success of Sunday's vote to the Iraqi election on Jan. 30 and said the two events would make 2005 "an extraordinary year." *AFP*

Yushchenko declared winner of Ukraine polls

KIEV—Ukrainian election officials Monday declared Viktor Yush-chenko the official winner of a presidential rerun vote, paving the way for the hero of the "orange revolution" to be inaugurated as the third president of an independent Ukraine.

"During the repeat election of Dec. 26, Viktor Yushchenko has been elected president of Ukraine," central election commission chief Yaroslav Davydovich announced to applause and cheers at the end of nearly a seven-hour meeting in Kiev.

"Yu-shchen-ko! Yu-shchen-ko!" chanted Yushchenko's supporters packed in the commission meeting room as they unfurled an orange flag of their standard-bearer's campaign.

Monday's announcement paved the way for parliament to set a date for Yushchenko's inauguration, despite vows by his defeated rival, former prime minister Viktor Yanukovich, to keep up a legal challenge over the election.

"This is the happiest day of my life," Petro Poroshenko, a deputy in Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc and one of the four leading candidates for the post of prime minister, said after the vote.

"Ukraine has proved that it is a European country... A new country and a new government were born today," he said.

Nester Shuffrich, a Yanukovich representative at the commission, promised to appeal the results with the Supreme Court.

"Unfortunately the election results have been determined with violations of the election law and the constitution," he said. "We will discuss these violations tomorrow or the next day at the Supreme Court."

Yanukovich has vowed to exhaust all his avenues for appeal, in what many observers say is an attempt to boost his image as a Yushchenko adversary ahead of next year's crucial parliamentary elections.

According to final results, Yushchenko won the election with 51.99 percent of the vote compared with 44.20 percent received by Yanukovich, a difference of 2.27 million votes on turnout of 77.19 percent.

Yushchenko's inauguration will put an end to weeks of political turmoil that flared with a now-discredited November runoff election to choose a successor to the 10-year authoritarian-leaning regime of outgoing leader Leonid Kuchma in the strategic former Soviet republic.

The official swearing-in ceremony is expected to take place in parliament, followed by a symbolic one on Kiev's Independence Square—the epicenter of Yushchenko's "orange revolution" that roiled the nation and echoed on the world stage.

"It'll be flashy and interesting, with twists," Oleksander Zinchenko, Yushchenko's campaign manager, promised during a press conference in Kiev Monday. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Baghdad deputy police chief killed

BAGHDAD—Gunmen killed Baghdad's deputy police chief Monday in the second assassination of a senior Iraqi official in days, as two US soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb ripped through their armored personnel carrier. In a second attack on Iraq's fledgling security forces claimed by an al-Qaida linked group, a suicide bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into a checkpoint south of the capital killing three policemen and wounding 17. "Baghdad's deputy police chief Brig. Gen. Amer Ali Nayef and his son Lt. Khalid Nayef were on their way to work from their home in Dura when they were shot by unknown assailants," said interior ministry advisor Dr. Sabah Kahdim. The car, riddled with bullets in the front and back windows and stained with blood on the windshield and dashboard, crashed into a yard, where it was surrounded by teenagers, gawking at the latest carnage, an AFP photographer witnessed. *AFP*

Cuba renews ties with all of Europe

HAVANA—Cuba announced Monday it has resumed formal ties with all of Europe, ending a deep freeze in relations following a spring 2003 crackdown on dissidents and the firing-squad executions of three men who tried to hijack a ferry. Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque told international journalists Monday that official contacts had resumed with the Havana-based ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Netherlands, as well as with the local European Union mission. "Cuba has re-established official contacts now with all of the EU countries," Perez Roque said. Last week, Cuba re-established contacts with eight other European nations: France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Austria, Greece, Portugal and Sweden. Cuba earlier had resumed formal contact with Spain, Belgium and Hungary. *AP*

AMA = JOBS HERE & ABROAD
Go for IT
INSTANT TRABAHO

Think!
Choose the school that can help you land a job, fast!

Go for IT
INSTANT TRABAHO
Go for AMA Education System

AMAES Go for IT Program will help you land a job fast, here and abroad.

- International partnerships and affiliations guarantee world-class learning.
- Infotech, AMA's placement partner, assists graduates to land their dream jobs.
- Experienced, competent faculty and state-of-the-art facilities.
- I.T.-based education in all programs with focus on English proficiency of students.

Go for IT. Go to AMA. Close to 90% of its alumni are now employed
in prestigious companies here and abroad
while the rest are successful entrepreneurs. Join them!

ENROLLMENT EXTENDED!

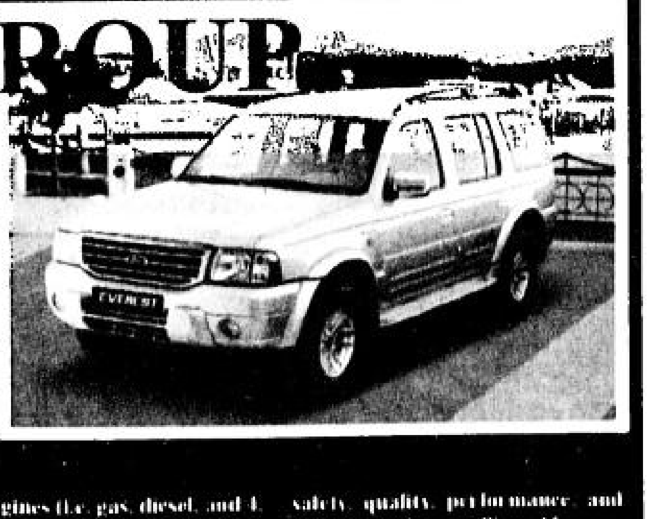
Open to new enrollees and transferees.
Classes for 3rd Trimester SY 2004-2005 start January 10, 2005.

AMA Computer University
International Business College
AMA School of Nursing
ACLC
AMA Computer Learning Center

AMA Education System
Asia's Pioneer and Largest in I.T. Based Degree Education
Over 200 campuses worldwide.
www.amaes.edu.ph

24 YEARS OF QUALITY I.T. EDUCATION

PHILIPPINES • KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN • BANGLADESH • CHINA • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA • INDONESIA • THAILAND • HONG KONG



FORD GROUP PHILIPPINES UNDISPUTED SUV LEADER IN 2004

Dominates December mid-size SUV sales

True SUV leadership in 2004 continues for Ford Group Philippines, maker of Ford and Mazda vehicles. At the close of 2004, Ford dominated the SUV category with 33% market share in December. This leadership performance was echoed full year with a total market share of 30%.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturer's of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA)-the last word on industry sales performance-shows that the Ford Everest dominated sales in the mid-size category of SUV sales in 2004 with 54% of the market, robust sales also came from the Ford Expedition, the Ford Escape, newest entrant the Ford Explorer, and strong contributions by the Mazda Tribute.

These Ford brands represent the most complete line up of choices of engines (i.e. gas, diesel, and 4, 6, 8 cylinders.), and drive trains of both 4x4 and 4x2 transmissions suitable for any of the various needs and preferences of the market. The single, dynamic, upwardly mobile may find the Escape to be the vehicle that reflects his personality, a family with a precious cargo of seven may opt for the safeness of the Everest, the new Explorer Eddie Bauer lends comfort and class to its riders and the Expedition Eddie Bauer is for the discriminating, while the Mazda Tribute is enjoyed for driving exhilaration.

"Ford looks to 2005 as another year of continued SUV supremacy," stated Ford Group Philippines Marketing VP, [illegible] Dy Buncio, "the market has come to know all Ford SUVs to follow the American heritage of toughness, safety, quality, performance, and styling attributes telling of how we value the market's needs. We feel the success of 2004 will usher in another banner year for Ford, especially with the introduction of the Ford Explorer and its track record as America's best selling SUV for 14years and counting, a legacy we have started building on since its launch last November."

Ford's complete SUV line may be viewed or test driven, at any of the Ford dealerships: Ford Alabang, Ford Balintawak, Ford Commonwealth, Ford EDSA, Ford Libis, Ford Makati, Ford Manila, Ford Quezon Avenue, Ford Shaw Blvd., Ford Bacolod, Ford Cabanatuan, Ford Cagayan de Oro, Ford Cavite, Ford Cebu, Ford Dagupan, Ford Davao, Ford Iloilo, Ford Pampanga, Ford San Pablo.

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 35

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
OPINION
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Can of worms

EDITORIAL

WHY did Sandiganbayan Justice Edilberto Sandoval resign? Or rather, why did he quit his post last Monday as chair and member of the special division trying former President Joseph Estrada on plunder and perjury charges? Sandoval, after all, remains chair of the second division of the anti-graft court.

To put it in a better way, why did Sandoval partially, but not totally, quit? Sandoval said, at first, it was for health reasons. Then he said (with a smile) it was due to a "hectic schedule." Then he made comments critical on his colleagues' decisions in the anti-graft court, decisions that Sandoval has a record of opposing, such as the question of allowing Estrada to travel to Hong Kong for knee surgery. Sandoval was the lone dissenter against the decision to allow the travel to Hong Kong.

Others are convinced he quit out of pride, or *delicadeza*, depending on how one looks at it. From opposing camps, Estrada defense lawyer Rene Saguisag and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez see eye to eye on this. Said Saguisag, "We bumped into him and he told us that he would resign if he is not appointed (Sandiganbayan presiding justice)." This was in November, after Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario was appointed to the Supreme Court and Sandoval was named to her previous post as Sandiganbayan presiding justice in an acting capacity. Gonzalez says Sandoval "probably felt that he was humiliated because he was not appointed presiding justice. He felt that, out of *delicadeza*, he should resign. This has happened before in the Court of Appeals."

The opposition view and administration opinion seems to be that Sandoval was disgruntled over appointments made to the Sandiganbayan, and quit as a result.

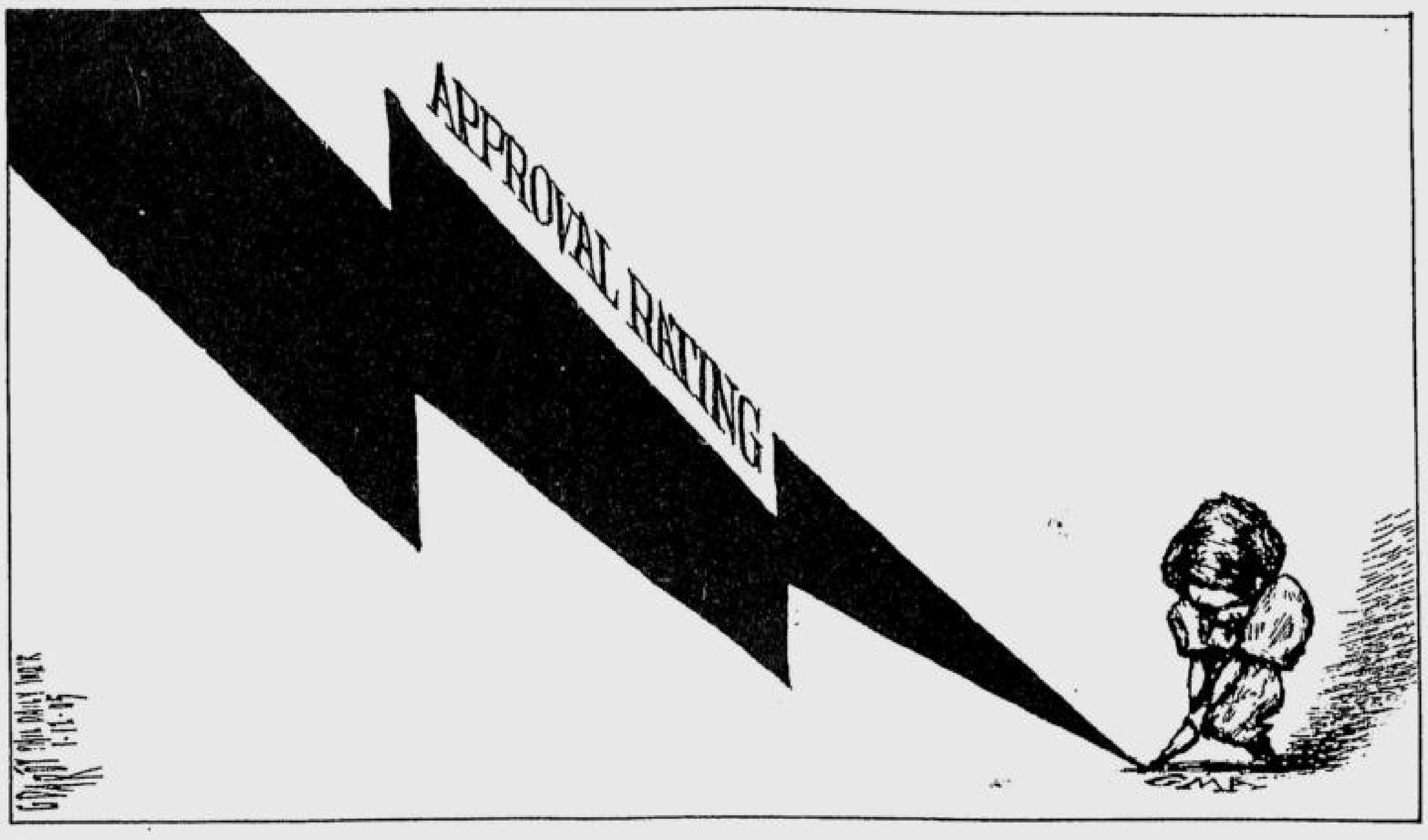
But if the reasons for Sandoval's resignation from heading the division trying Estrada seem murky, the implications of his resignation are clear. In becoming the third head of a division trying Estrada to have resigned, Sandoval's actions have put the Sandiganbayan on center stage, and by doing so, called attention to the poor executive record in appointments to the graft court, and the court's uninspiring record in handling the Estrada trial.

The third division first had retired Presiding Justice Anacleto Badoy hearing Estrada's plunder and perjury charges, until the Supreme Court ordered him to go on forced leave in December 2001. Then Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario was named chair of a special division established to specifically handle the trial in 2002. Nazario approved Estrada's application for permission to go on a trip to the United States on Dec. 23, 2003. After Estrada's request to travel abroad on Dec. 1, 2004, the Palace announced Nazario's appointment to the Supreme Court. Then, soon after approving Estrada's trip to Hong Kong, Justice Teresita de Castro was named head of the Sandiganbayan, setting aside the seniority of Sandoval.

Who can blame state prosecutors for thinking that the promotion of Nazario and De Castro were rewards for allowing Estrada to stay in the comfort of his rest house in Tanay, and then travel abroad, thus according the jailed former president special treatment and giving potential political benefits to a Palace frightened of Estrada's popularity? And who can blame others for thinking that Sandoval was shunted aside because he tends to dissent from what the other justices (and perhaps, the Palace) want?

Perhaps Sandoval has done the country a service by, in his own way, standing up for seniority and against political accommodations in the judiciary. And while his action may further delay a spectacularly overdue judgment, the Estrada camp has no business complaining. For every possible government-inspired delay, there's surely case after case of the trial being affected by Estrada's own wishes to delay the case. What does the resignation of one judge compare to Estrada's past decision to hire, fire and then rehire, his own defense counsel? Or the consistent, and creative, manifestations made by Estrada's counsel to ensure every possible delay in the trial?

We rest our case.



Reduce number of vehicles in Metro Manila

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

(*Continued from last Monday*)

IT is time to cull not only the excess buses but also the excess jeepneys and tricycles. As any damn fool can see, there are too many of them.

Our policy on public transportation is exactly the opposite of what it should be. Cities with the most orderly public transport system have strict control over them. Buses run on time, at regular intervals. You can tell the time by the arrival or departure of a bus.

Here, it is the opposite. The transport system is in utter chaos. Free enterprise should not be allowed in public transportation, but here anybody who can hire a fixer or bribe somebody in the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) can have a franchise for a jeepney or a bus.

The operators are paid on boundary basis by the drivers. So the operators don't care about schedules or passengers; that's the driver's worry.

The driver's take-home pay is what is left of his earnings after paying for the boundary and for the fuel and oil. That is why the competition on the streets is very keen. Drivers violate traffic rules and bribe policemen just to be able to get enough passengers.

Every day more and more vehicles are poured into the streets but few new streets are constructed to accommodate them. Not enough old units are phased out, so vehicles keep increasing by the tens of thousands every year. In the Philippines, once a vehicle reaches the street, it will stay there forever. Look at the World War II jeep, it is still there, and its numbers are increasing instead of decreasing over time.

Even if we double or triple the color-coding system to ban more vehicles from the streets more often, traffic congestion will remain because vehicles keep increasing. We are spoiling the vehicle manufacturers by allowing them to sell as many vehicles as they can. The foreign-owned vehicle assemblers are racing with one another to sell the most units, but the government is not collecting enough taxes from them to be able to build more streets.

There are now so many vehicles in Metro Manila that at night, many of them are double-parked out in the streets because the owners have no garages. In many foreign cities, you will not be allowed to buy a vehicle if you cannot show a title for a garage or a parking slot. But in the Philippines, anybody with the money can buy as many vehicles as he wants.

The solution to the traffic congestion in Metro Manila is to reduce the number of vehicles out in the streets. Bus, jeepney and tricycle franchises should be reduced. No new ones should be issued. Those with many violations should be cancelled.

There is an acute lack of public transportation in many provinces. In some areas, people wait for hours to get a ride in an overloaded jeepney. So send the excess public transport units in Metro Manila to the provinces.

* * *

The FRONT PAGE, the piano bar of Plaridel, the association of journalists, as well as its clubhouse and art gallery, on T.M. Kalaw Street, Manila, will be inaugurated on Jan. 24, a Monday, at 6:30 p.m., with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Senate President Franklin Drilon as guests of honor.

Willie Nepomuceno, the well known mimic, will spoof some celebrities, and famous singers will entertain the guests during cocktails.

The Front Page, the new watering hole for journalists and their guests, will offer good music, outstanding singers, quality drinks and fine food. It will be open to the public after the inauguration. It will eventually have a coffee shop and a restaurant.

The art gallery will be a venue for art exhibits. Its first show, to open on Jan. 24, will have paintings by Malang and sculptures by Julie Lluch with a common theme: Filipino women. The clubhouse will be a place to relax for member-journalists, with piped-in music, a reading room, a billiard room, TV sets and computers, chess sets, dart boards, etc.

The Front Page piano bar is located on the ground floor of Travelers Life Building, while the clubhouse and art gallery are on the third floor.

Plaridel's home is very aptly located in the tourist belt of Ermita. It is surrounded by places named after heroes, journalists, writers, patriots. It is on Teodoro M. Kalaw Street, between Marcelo H. Del Pilar (after whom it is named) and Apolinario Mabini Streets. Streets named after Jorge Bocobo and Maria Orosa are nearby, while the park named after Jose Rizal is just across the street. Mabini is the center of art in Manila, with numerous art galleries lining it, one of which used to be the Philippine Art Gallery or PAG, birthplace of the neo-realist school of Philippine painting where most of today's national artists and other outstanding painters first exhibited their works.

It is very near the newspaper row in Port Area and Intramuros; in fact, it is right beside the editorial office of the opposition newspaper Tribune.

If you want to talk to a journalist, the Front Page is the place to look for him or her. If you want to relax after deadline, this is the place to go. If you want to see a friend, just say "Let's meet at the Front Page." If you want some privacy, just go up to the clubhouse. If you want a game of billiards or chess, or want to see the best and the latest in art, or listen to relaxing music, go up there.

All genuine journalists and VIPs from government and business are invited to the Jan. 24 inauguration.

Resign

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

LAST week, in her annual toast in Malacañang before her Cabinet, the diplomatic corps and senior officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, GMA called for unity. Specifically, she called for sparing the country from a "political tsunami."

"Shame on us leaders if we inflict our own political tsunami upon this great nation of ours, if we don't take bold steps to get our nation back on track…We are all too often our own worst enemies. We have many obstacles to overcome, but many are the barriers we place in front of ourselves…The nation is at a crossroads and we must move forward with decisive action…It is time to tear down the barriers and build up hope, growth and a new optimism at the start of this new year."

I agree completely. But this is an exhortation whose wisdom emerges only when put side by side with something GMA also said at nearly the same time two years ago:

"We know that we will soon enter the political period leading up to the elections in 2004…The elections may well go down in history as among our most bitterly contested elections ever. This is because of the deep social and political division that we now have. If this is true, then sincere efforts to launch programs will run the risk of being derailed by political fighting leading up to the elections. The government in place after 2004 may merely end up inheriting a country as deeply divided as ever. Consequently, we may end up stalling national growth for a few years more as a result of lost momentum…

"If I were to run, it will require a major political effort… But since I am among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness."

GMA never delivered a more prescient speech than the one she gave then, arguing brilliantly why she should not run again. Or indeed why she should not be President again. She would be a never-ending source of disunity of this country. She would be the political tsunami to overwhelm this country.

She has.

The last elections did go down in history as one of the most bitterly contested elections ever. Or more to the point, as one of the dirtiest ever. No small thanks to GMA herself, whose efforts were far from sincere, who in fact raised the bar on how far you can breach ethics in love and elections when she decided to run anyway after convincing the world what a bad idea it was. After that, it was pretty much free for all, no holds barred, every woman for herself, the devil take the hindmost. The elections were marked by a Comelec that was determined to cheat at any price, by an incumbent that was determined to win at any cost, by a public that was willing to be silent whatever the provocation.

Government did end up inheriting a country as deeply divided as ever. Indeed, far more than that, GMA did end up being more distrusted than any of her predecessors, with the possible exception of Ferdinand Marcos, the man who beat her father in the 1965 elections by lying, too, among other things, about not sending a contingent to Vietnam. Both Ibon and SWS have already shown that the majority of Filipinos do not think GMA won the elections. And Ibon just confirmed the other day what most Filipinos already know, which is that few Filipinos trust GMA to lead them out of the rut.

Some years ago, I repeatedly appealed to GMA to do the right thing, which was not to run again because she was the source of this country's disunity. I said if she did that, she could accomplish overnight what she had been trying desperately to do for some time, which was to get the nation behind her. She could compel the politicians to put aside their sectarian differences, she could rally the nation to push the nation forward, she could become the best President this country ever had. She did vow not to run again—but only for show. There is a price to pay for that, and she is paying it.

I make pretty much the same appeal to her today: to resign in lieu of not running again. The argument against it, which is that she is constitutionally bound to carry out the mandate of the voters, means nothing if that mandate itself is suspect. This country is not going to have peace so long as most Filipinos think the wrong tenant occupies Malacañang. Which impression can't improve with the way this country is going, which adds the mandate of heaven to that of earth, as though to say wrong will come from wrong.

Of course, I do not mean that she should leave the field to the so-called opposition, which represents a step backward rather than forward. But I refuse to believe that this country of 70 million or so souls has been so depleted of talent it cannot even now produce the right people to lead it out of the wilderness.

I do know one thing, which is that GMA is right when she says shame on this country's leaders if they inflict their own political tsunamis upon this nation, if they do not take bold steps to bring this country back on track. I do know GMA is right when she says that we are all too often our worst enemies, many are the obstacles we have to overcome but many are the barriers we put in our path. I do know GMA is right when she says it is time to tear down the barriers and give this country a reason to hope. She is the biggest political tsunami to have engulfed this nation, she is the biggest barrier she has put in this country's path, she is the very thing to tear down to give this country a reason to hope. She should heed her words.

And resign.

Of course, she can always dredge up another milestone in Rizal's life and use it as an opportunity to say she would, and turn her back on her word when her ratings improve. She has done it before. But that brings us to the story of the boy who cried wolf…

A flood of compassion

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE EMERGENCY summit of 21 nations in Jakarta last Thursday to coordinate aid to more than 1.5 million homeless people in 12 countries devastated by the Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami unlocked more than $4 billion in aid pledges from more than 50 countries, both rich and poor.

The outpouring of pledges jacked up dramatically after rich countries were riled by a remark made by United Nations humanitarian chief Jan Egeland that the wealthy were "stingy" in their early response to what has now turned out to be the most catastrophic human tragedy in recent history. Although the torrent of pledges moved UN officials to describe it as a display of "competitive compassion," they warned aid donors not to engage in one-upmanship, and to make good the pledge, reminding them that the UN had a bad history of unfulfilled pledges. Ten years ago, donors promised Iran more than $1 billion in relief after an earthquake that killed 26,000 people. Iran said it received only $17.5 million.

The more reassuring and heart-warming aspect of the flood of compassion around the globe was the outpouring of cash donations from common people and the private corporations. Even before governments could make up their minds about their donations, it was the spontaneous public donations that generated the cash flows that financed food and medical supplies that were the first to reach the victims at the hour of their greatest need. Indeed, it was the private outpouring of aid that may be credited for the recovery of the bodies of more than 150,000 dead, and for blunting the second wave of deaths from diseases and hunger.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged donors to channel $1.7 billion of the funds to the UN for relief, including $977 million for emergency aid, emphasizing the need for "pledges to be converted into cash quickly." "It is a race against time," he said, warning another 150,000 people face death, doubling the confirmed toll.

Although US President George W. Bush has been criticized by UN officials for his miserly initial offer of $15 million in the first few days of the disaster, forcing him to increase the amount to $350 million in the following days, American private donations have surpassed their government in generosity and lead private donations all over the world, with the Australians competing with them in generosity. Australia at the Jakarta summit pledged $1 billion for Indonesian relief and rehabilitation for a period of five years, making it the biggest aid donor.

US charities have reported raising more than $337 million for emergency relief, that could dwarf the $350 million committed by the Bush government. Bush himself has donated $10 million after urging the American people to give personally cash donations and drafting his father, former President George W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton to lead the appeal for private donations from Americans.

The American Red Cross alone has raised nearly $150 million. American private donations were much smaller than the $2 billion raised for the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. Tsunami donations to the Red Cross have averaged between $81 and $104 million.

Heart-warming was a donation of fourth-grader Will Molnar of Elverta, California, who gave up his ninth birthday celebration and asked his mother to donate the money she would have spent on his party as presents to children tsunami victims.

A prisoner in the US donated his wages earned from prison labor to tsunami charities. A group of children in a Seattle suburb stood out in the rain offering "hot chocolate for Tidal Wave Relief" and raised $255.

Private Australian donations have been pouring in. A rock concert on the weekend at the Sydney Opera House raised more than $20 million for World Vision Australia as more than 160,000 Australians called in with pledges. The concert proceeds pushed Australian private donations over the $150 million mark.

The Australian public has been donating up to $12 million a day since the tsunami hit 12 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa two weeks ago, ranking them among the world's best per capita donors. The Red Cross has raised almost $62 million; World Vision, $50.8 million; Care Australia, $18 million; and Oxfam at least $14 million—bigger than the $39 million government pledge of oil-rich Saudi Arabia, together with its $41 million private donation.

The bulk of the Australian cash donations comes from small donors: ordinary people, chipping in a few hundred dollars. Money is raised from cricket matches, church collections and pubs, and ethnic communities, including Filipinos, and Vietnamese in Melbourne. The 200,000-strong Vietnamese community, composed mainly of former boat people, donated $580,000 through SBS (the multi-ethnic Special Broadcasting Station). More than 50 Thai restaurants from Albert Park, Melbourne, donated up to 50 percent of their earnings last Sunday to the Thai disaster fund. A group of 19 independent hotels has announced that 350 staff would donate all tips from January to World Vision, raising more than $10,000.

A lottery winner donated the bulk of her $500,000 winnings to tsunami charities. An 80-year-old pensioner in Brisbane gave to the Red Cross his $10,000 savings, straight out of his mattress where he had kept it for many years.

Australian corporate donations are lagging far behind private individual donations. Business donations have been less than $20 million, compared to the more than $100 million private individual donations. Corporations have been criticized for their miserly response, despite the fact that they are making record profits. Australian corporate response compares poorly with that of US corporations whose donations were outstripping the US official aid pledge package.

Getting to know 'meningo'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"PRANING-COCCEMIA" is indeed a disease as bad as the one that has brought Baguio and environs to an uproar. Speculation, exaggeration and unfounded fears are as much symptoms and side-effects of the disease as the real physical signs of the bacterial infection meningococcemia.

Here, courtesy of Larry Lutwick in "Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine" are some facts about meningococcemia and what to look for, what to expect and how to protect ourselves from it.

Meningococcemia is a disease that can arise from the presence of a bacteria, called meningococcus, in the bloodstream. Meningococcus, formally called Neisseria meningistidis, "can be one of the most dramatic and rapidly fatal of all infectious diseases."

"Meningo" is a relatively rare infection that occurs most commonly in children and young adults, says Lutwick. In susceptible people, "the bacteria can cause a very severe illness that can kill within hours" usually by "colonizing" the upper airway, though no symptoms may first appear. "From there, the bacteria can penetrate into the bloodstream to the central nervous system and cause meningitis or develop into a full-blown bloodstream infection (meningococcemia)."

But there's also a good side to this disease, as Lutwick points out. "Fortunately in most colonized people, this does not happen and the result of this colonization is long-lasting immunity against the particular strain."

Symptoms can develop within one day or one to two weeks. When the patient starts complaining of fever and muscle aches, says Lutwick, more severe symptoms can develop. "Unfortunately during this early stage, a doctor cannot tell this illness from any other illness, such as a viral infection like influenza."

* * *

"UNLESS the case is occurring in a person known to have been exposed to or in the midst of an epidemic of meningococcal disease, there may be no specific symptoms or signs found that help the doctor diagnose the problem. Rarely, a low-grade bloodstream infection called chronic meningococcemia can occur," adds Lutwick.

After the early symptoms, the infected person may complain of continued fever, shaking chills, weakness and even depression. This only means that "the organism is multiplying in the bloodstream, unchecked by the immune system." The severity of the illness and its dire complications, notes Lutwick, "are caused by the damage the organism does to the small blood vessel walls...which causes them to leak." Thus the first signs of a severe infection are small bleeding spots seen on the skin. "A doctor should always suspect meningococcemia when he/she finds an acutely ill patient with fever, chills and petechiae (bleeding spots on the skin).

Within hours, says Lutwick, blood vessel damage increases and large bleeding areas appear on the skin (purpura), often described by witness as the victims turning "purple." The same changes are taking place in the affected person's internal organs, adds Lutwick. Blood pressure is often low and there may be signs of bleeding from other organs, like coughing up blood, nose bleeds and blood in the urine.

"Essentially, large areas of skin, muscle, and internal organs die from lack of blood and oxygen. Even if the disease is quickly diagnosed and treated, the patient has a high risk of dying," says Lutwick.

* * *

THE ONLY way doctors can be sure of meningococcemia is through a blood culture. But Lutwick advises that "treatment should begin when the diagnosis is suspected and should not be delayed waiting for positive cultures."

Antibiotics, including penicillin, can be effective against meningococcemia, says Lutwick, but these should be given immediately if possible, even before transfer to the hospital and even if cultures cannot be obtained before treatment. "Most likely the speed of initial treatment will affect the ultimate outcome."

As much as 15 to 20 percent of patients will die as a result of the acute infection, says Lutwick. "A significant percentage of the survivors will have tissue damage that requires surgical treatment," adds Lutwick, "and may need skin grafts or even partial or full amputations of an arm or leg."

"Certain people with immune system defects (particularly those with defects in the complement system) may have recurrent episodes of meningococcemia. These patients, however, seem to have a less serious outcome."

* * *

HOW can meningococcemia be prevented?

A vaccine for meningococcus is available, says Lutwick, but none for the "type B" organism, which is more common.

"It is, however, recommended that all people take certain antibiotics if they have had contact (like at home or in a daycare) with a person who has meningococcal infection. The most common antibiotics given are rifampin (Rifadin) or ciprofloxacin (Cipro). These medicines are usually taken by mouth twice a day for two days. This treatment will decrease the risk of infection in these people who have been exposed. However, the overall risk to people who have been exposed, even without antibiotic use, is probably no more than one or two percent," says Lutwick.

Here, then is a realistic portrait of meningococcemia. Though infectious and deadly, the disease it turns out is manageable enough. All it needs are alert medical authorities who will not hesitate to act aggressively even while a final diagnosis is still awaited.

Should local and national authorities declare a health emergency in Baguio? Not at the moment, it seems. Though it would seem the wiser option for now to take precautions, such as taking antibiotics, before venturing to known areas where there have been outbreaks.

Stray bits of information

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN people complain that we have too many doctors, lawyers and accountants in this country, I wonder whether this generalization is true or not. These professions are like taxicabs: there are a lot of them when you don't need them and very few when you do.

The same thing can probably be said of historians. There are so many people walking around with degrees in history, but yet very little by way of research or writing trickle down to general readers outside academic ivory towers. At one point in my life, I seriously considered shifting to anthropology because there were too many historians around for me to make a difference. Being young then, a drastic career shift was possible, but when I realized how physically taxing an archeologist's life could be, and that the profession required a lot of science subjects I had consciously avoided in college, like Biology and Chemistry. There was no way out for me. I had to go back into the welcome arms of Clio.

Since I couldn't free myself from history, the career shift meant changing focus. Was there a life outside the late 19th-century Philippines and the men and women who made us the nation we are still trying to be? Because we have such a long 19th century, certain periods are almost unknown to us, like the 16th to the 18th centuries. Also the period before writing, before the 9th century, the so-called pre-historic time, not too far back to reach Neanderthals and dinosaurs.

Naturally, my choice was to take the path of least resistance. Why not jump a few decades from my area of expertise to cover the period from 1900 to 1950? Materials would be in English, making my task easier.

One of my professors, Milagros C. Guerrero, advised against this saying, "There are so few of us doing the Spanish period. If you move on to the American period, that is one worker less in this big vineyard." So I stayed on with Rizal, the Philippine Revolution, and the Filipino-American War, a timely decision because from 1993 to the celebration of the Philippine Centennial of 1998 was a glorious time to be a historian doing the late 19th-century.

Now that the centennial years are long gone, I wonder what my career would be had I changed direction and gone to the Spanish Archives and immersed myself in all those documents on the Philippines that have not been read since the time they were written. Now that I am old, I don't have the energy to spend whole days in an archive searching for that one document or series of documents that could lead to a new career.

Reflecting on these things brings me to three compilations of historical documents that lie on my shelves, waiting to be mined for newspaper columns. The first, of course, is the 55-volume "The Philippine Islands" edited by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson at the turn of the 20th century. This is the first stop for any researcher these days and our task is made easier by a CD-ROM edition made possible by the Bank of the Philippine Islands. While I am thrilled that I can carry the entire 55-volume set in a CD in my pocket, I am hopelessly old-fashioned and love working with the printed version.

The second compilation of documents most useful to students is the 12-volume "Documentary Sources for Philippine History" compiled and edited by Gregorio Zaide before he passed away. This goes all the way from the 9th century to Edsa 1986.

The third compilation of documents in English is a series of volumes called "The Philippines Under Spain." This last set is what I know the least because I do not even have a complete set. But browsing over the hefty Book III (1572-1583) over the weekend and breaking its faulty binding resulted in stray bits of information that are worth pursuing.

The editor of these volumes (that break apart when you actually try to read them) Virginia Benitez-Licuanan, being a journalist, had an eye for the unusual. While she did not provide much by way of footnotes or at least a short introduction to each document to place it in context, there are nuggets that can provide researchers an interesting trail. For example, there was a short Royal Decree of 1580 permitting a certain Andres Duarte de Figueroa to bring to the Philippines the following: four swords, one arquebus, and coat of arms. By itself the document is insignificant, even trivial, but it provides a clue into the world of the late 16th-century Philippines, what kind of things were allowed to be imported, etc.

The next two documents, also dated 1580, were also intriguing because it provided for a painter named Alonso Francisco and a clock maker named Hernando de Guzman to travel to the Philippines en route to China. It seems the Spanish king wanted to send as gifts to the emperor of China some paintings in gold plated frames and clocks. These men were to accompany the royal presents to China and make sure they impress the emperor.

Another royal decree also provided for the transport of the following articles to the Philippines in transit to China: "Twelve elks of the very best there are, horses as well as harnesses to go with them. They should be of good breed and with coverlets carrying the royal coat of arms, and six mules that will carry the chests containing the gifts with coverlets and a piece of crimson velvet cloth with the royal coat of arms."

Did these royal gifts ever get to China? There are so many loose ends in many stories that make up our history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Remembering WWII

WARS don't just end, they wind down all too slowly. And in the case of World War II, the decisive battles were fought between 1944 and 1945.

In the last few months, there has been a flurry of activities to commemorate these events. The most widely publicized were the memorials in June last year around D-Day, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Allied Forces' landing on the coast of Normandy in France.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Discovery Channel has been running an excellent series of documentaries called "Colour of War," with all too real color footage from the final months of World War II, while incorporating moving accounts of the war from the front lines, using soldiers' and civilians' letters and diaries. They've also been running a documentary about Changi prison in Singapore, one of many prison camps that the Japanese used to hold prisoners of war.

Amid all these activities, I wonder if we're doing too little in the Philippines to remember that terrible war. Because of that neglect, we will be losing out on another important opportunity to educate younger generations about the horrors of war.

It's not just a matter of remembering the past. We are, after all, still at war. Last month, BBC had a special, "One Day of War," focusing on 16 current armed conflicts, including the communist insurgency in the Philippines.

And the other week I was listening, through the Internet, to a program on the United States' National Public Radio (NPR) where they interviewed a Filipino-American couple, the woman expressing her fears and sadness about her husband, who was with the US Army and was about to be deployed to Iraq.

The costs of war

World War II remains the bloodiest conflict in human history, with an estimated 55 million deaths, including 6 million Jews exterminated mostly in concentration camps. In the Philippines, there were more than 110,000 people killed, the third highest figure in Asia, after China and Japan. Will younger Filipinos remember the Kempetai's (Japanese military police) torture and execution of Filipinos in Fort Santiago, New Bilibid Prison and Airport Studio (a building on Azcarraga)?

We associate the genocide mainly with the Japanese and Germans, but forget that in all wars, atrocities are perpetrated by all sides. In August this year, the world will mark the 60th anniversary of the atomic age, ushered in when the Americans dropped their bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, instantly killing some 140,000 Japanese, with many more thousands to die in the years to come from radiation illnesses. We must continue to ask, 60 years after that atomic holocaust, whether the bombs were necessary. After all, Japan had already suffered from continuous air attacks by the Americans in July and August, including 90,000 civilians killed in Tokyo in just one day of particularly ferocious bombing.

This year, too, I hope we will be more careful in using the term "Liberation" to refer to MacArthur and the American troops' return to the Philippines. The term downplays the role of our own Filipino soldiers between 1941 and 1945 in defending the Philippines—and Mother America. Many of the Filipino veterans died without ever receiving any benefits or recognition.

We forget, too, what that "Liberation" entailed, with much of Manila razed to the ground by the fleeing Japanese and the returning Americans. "Liberation" involved as much devastation of Manila as enemy German and Japanese cities bombed by the Allied Forces.

Treachery and cowardice

We must teach our young that war is often sparked by acts of cowardice. Readily, we associate World War II with the Japanese's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. The act was considered treacherous because Japan had not officially declared war. But our memories can be selective here. The Pacific war is often said to have started in 1931, when Japan invaded Mukden, Manchuria, while Germany began its invasion of neighboring countries in the late 1930s, but America, Britain and other global powers conveniently (and cowardly?) remained silent.

Japanese militarists sent some 4,000 young Japanese men to their deaths in kamikaze suicide attacks between 1943 and 1944. We are fascinated by what seems to be a patriotic fanaticism, but one documentary in Discovery's "Colour of War" series includes an excerpt from a letter written by 22-year-old Yoshi Miyagi, a kamikaze pilot: "If we had listened to the Japanese who truly loved Japan, we would not be where we are today. I know my death can no longer solve any problem…"

Miyagi's message should resonate in our times: truly patriotic leaders will not send their young men and women out to war.

Sanitizing the war

I wonder at times about the adage that the victors in war get to write the history books. In our part of the world, there is too much silence and collective amnesia in the countries that suffered in the hands of the Japanese, even while in Japan, we see the militarists trying to sanitize textbooks and downplay the pillage of China and Southeast Asia.

There seems to be no bounds to the impunity. In 2003, some 300 Japanese tourists visited the Chinese city of Zhuhai where they were serviced, en masse, by 200 Chinese prostitutes for three days. When word leaked out about the event, the Chinese were furious, especially because the dates of the orgy, intentionally or not, coincided with Japan's invasion of China in 1931. The tour organizers were arrested and tried, and two of them sentenced to life imprisonment.

That was the extent of Chinese fury. In contrast, we in the Philippines have allowed the Japanese to set up memorials throughout the country to commemorate their soldiers. I certainly have no objection to remembering the war dead, even if they're from the "enemy" side, but I'm also alarmed seeing more Japanese war memorials in the Philippines than Filipino monuments to commemorate our own martyrs and those of the Allied Forces.

I'd ask, too, how could we have allowed the Japanese to set up a monument, as they have done in Tarlac, to honor the kamikaze pilots? I happened to drive past that monument last October and ran into traffic as local police extended VIP treatment to the Japanese delegation. I later did some research and found out the kamikaze attacks were first launched on Nov. 25, 1944 in the Philippine Sea.

Two years ago an ABS-CBN documentary featured a town in Central Luzon that had been a major source of comfort women, young girls seized by the Japanese to service their soldiers. That same town is also now an exporter of "Japayukis," young girls going off to work in Japan as entertainers. In this 60th year after World War II, we now beg the Japanese to keep the annual quota of 80,000 visas extended to the Philippines for our women to work as Japayukis.

We must forgive, but must we so readily forget?

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers
PPI

How about the mangroves?

IN THE WAKE of the recent tsunami disaster, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the modernization of our weather forecasting and warning system. This is very well, except that harmful human activities in coastal areas are being overlooked. If not stopped or at least regulated, these activities will only worsen the impact of a tsunami in an earthquake-prone country like ours.

I am referring to the continuing conversion of mangrove forests and the occupation of coastal areas by private interests. Mangrove forests and other natural barriers slow down tsunamis; without them tsunamis can wreak havoc up to a few kilometers inland.

In the last 30 years, almost 75 percent of more than 400,000 hectares of our mangrove forests have been converted to fishponds, residential areas and tourist resorts. Many of the tourist resorts include structures that even extend beyond the foreshore or *dalampasigan* (part of the beach tide covers and uncovers as it rises and falls). Contrary to common belief, these structures—e.g., jetties, revetments and seawalls—actually increase the effect of waves and accelerate coastal soil erosion.

In the town of Dalaguete, Cebu, the shores are lined with plush hotels and villas—some owned by foreigners who have married local women. It seems that anyone who has the money can grab a piece of our shores. In other places (Maui, Hawaii and Sabah), buffer zones, called "setbacks," have been established to serve as protection from the impact of soil erosion and high waves, extending from the shoreline to as far as a hundred meters inland, depending on the specific meteorological and oceanic conditions of the place. In these buffer zones, permanent structures—buildings, swimming pools, roads and other concrete structures—are prohibited.

It is not that we Filipinos do not have laws regulating activities in foreshore and shore areas. Under the Fisheries Code, foreshores are generally public and inalienable lands. On the other hand, the use of shore lands, (the dry area after the foreshore), which may either be privately or publicly owned; or classified as every other piece of dry land in the country, may be regulated. In fact, the operation of brackish water fishponds located in foreshore and shore areas may be regulated by the concerned local government units and the Department of Agriculture. Still, the illegal expansion of fishponds through the illegal conversion of mangroves persists.

The weak implementation of the law is due to government bias for private investments (including foreign ones) in the aquaculture and tourism industries. The bitter fruit is widespread destruction of mangroves, along with declining wildfish stocks that small fishers depend on for their food.

Let us hope that the government will finally act to put public safety before everything else—before it's too late.

—JAIME ESCOBER JR.,
information officer,
Tambuyog Development Center,
91 V. Luna Road, Sikatuna Village,
Quezon City

Window grills

THE BUILDING codes in the Philippines should be reviewed.

I am a Filipina general contractor in California, and my husband and I own an architectural metals company. We fabricate window grills, but the California building and safety codes require contractors like us to install fire releases on all window guards installed in bedrooms.

This is a very inexpensive devise that, at the push of a button (or a lever) from inside the bedroom, the window grills swing open, enabling the people to escape out of the window.

If a homeowner does not want a fire release, contractors are prohibited to from installing the window guards.

—BEVERLY SCHUCHMACHER,
Beverly@cdiw.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Noynoy does not drink liquor

IN THE JAN. 8 issue of the INQUIRER, a correction was made as to the surname of one of the survivors of an attack against a group of Hacienda Luisita strikers.

The more serious lapse was the claim that Noynoy Aquino "was apparently under the influence of liquor when he met with the workers." It was not true. He does not drink. His father did not. No one in his family drinks. In the interest of fairness, the error should be corrected.

I say this as a long-time friend and adviser of the family.

—R.A.V. SAGUISAG,
4045 Bigasan St.,
Palanan, Makati City

Unfair charges vs BFP

THIS pertains to the letter of Lito Lichauco. (PDI, 01/04/05) It is unfair for Lichauco to blame the Bureau of Fire Protection for the death of KC de Venecia by speculating that it could have been prevented but for some irregularities that attended BFP's procurement of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) and fire coats. By the very manner he laid down the details in support of his allegations, the writer must be privy—if not one of the actual bidders in disguise—to the bidding or procurement process under question.

But just the same, it is worth emphasizing that the BFP Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) declared the bidding a failure because it did not comply with the law and regulations on public biddings. BAC even sought the opinion and guidance of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) of the Department of Budget and Management for a proper resolution or remedy to the oversight in the procurement procedures.

As for the purchase of fire coats with no trousers, the writer himself pointed out that the BFP is trying to save money. In fact, the bureau has been working on a very tight budget that it has to prioritize which firefighting gear or equipment to purchase—but without necessarily disregarding or underestimating altogether the importance of having complete sets of firefighting gear and serviceable equipment. But a lack of these facilities need not paralyze the bureau in fulfilling its mission. In innumerable instances, BFP firefighters undauntedly and successfully worked their way through collapsing and burning structures with incomplete or no protective gear at all.

—BOBBY V. BARUELO,
superintendent and chief,
Public Information Section,
Bureau of Fire Protection

Total log ban is untenable

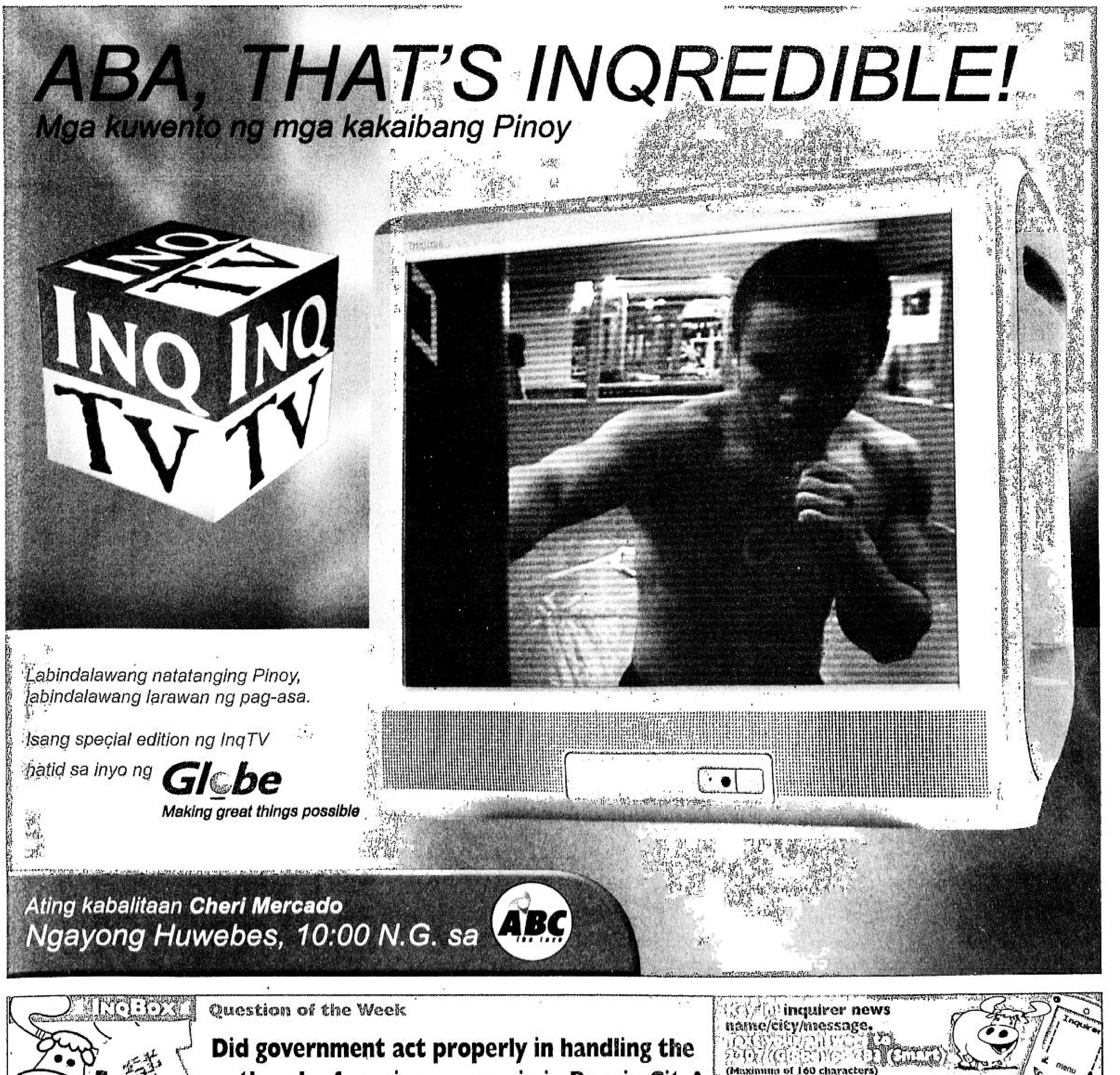
NEAL Cruz's reaction is another classic case of commenting without fully understanding the issues and facts. (PDI, 12/8/04) There are successful logging concessions insofar as selective logging is concerned. To say that selective logging will not or has not worked is incorrect. The Sanvictores concession in Northern Mindanao in the late '80s was a showcase.

To suggest that we import lumber instead is like stabbing ourselves. This will only worsen our dependence on forex, which will in turn make wood products more expensive, whether they are sourced from illegal, local logs or from abroad. No country which has imposed a total log ban succeeded in eliminating illegally-cut logs.

In the early '80s, the Indonesian government banned the exportation (not the cutting) of rattan poles, but Indonesian rattan poles kept on getting into the southern border. Cruz's suggestion—that we try a total log ban this time because the past has shown us that selective logging doesn't work—is simply not tenable. If we follow this logic, how can we be assured that the government, which has failed to monitor the logging industry in the past, can do it better this time.

Selective logging failed in the past simply because of lack of resources. Given the same situation, how can a total log ban, which is a bigger task, succeed? Remember, a mahogany flitch will look the same, whether it came from Indonesia, Thailand or Malaysia. And then again, the timber resource is a renewable natural resource. Government policies should revolve around this premise.

—ARNEL SERRANO,
Inglewood, California,
cfc1994@aol.com


ABA, THAT'S INQREDIBLE!
Mga kuwento ng mga kakaibang Pinoy
INQ TV
INQ TV
Labindalawang natatanging Pinoy,
labindalawang larawan ng pag-asa.
Isang special edition ng InqTV
hatid sa inyo ng
Globe
Making great things possible
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Ngayong Huwebes, 10:00 N.G. sa
ABC

InqBox

Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!

Question of the Week

Did government act properly in handling the outbreak of meningococcemia in Baguio City?

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer T-shirt!*

inquirer news name/city/message.

(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Edna at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A15

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Drills for disaster planned

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Residents of Central Luzon villages deemed high risk to earthquakes and resulting tsunamis will undergo evacuation and rescue drills starting next week, the chair of the regional disaster coordinating council said on Tuesday.

Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Central Luzon police director and RDCC chair, said the drills would try as much to approximate real-life situations.

He said details of the drills would be finalized in consultation with experts, including scientists.

It would not be a one-time exercise, Albano said, adding that communities would be helped in assessing where they were strong and weak in preparing for and reacting to disaster events.

"The main aim of the dry runs is to reduce the threats to lives," he said.

Tuesday's RDCC meeting, the third since four typhoons battered Nueva Ecija and Aurora, tackled the threats of floods, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and airborne diseases like meningococcemia and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Terrorism, a human-made "calamity," was included in this year's anticipated risks.

Ernesto Verceles of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Central Luzon would feel the impact of the El Niño weather disturbance until July.

He said the region, bounded by the Pacific Ocean in the east and South China Sea on the west, would experience normal but delayed rains.

However, Verceles did not rule out the recurrence of serious floods in the region. The El Niño episodes in 1972 and 1973 flooded large parts of Central Luzon, he told officials of more than 20 government agencies that are members of the RDCC.

Ramona Julabar of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said several active faults cut through and all sides of the region, including its long coastlines, making many communities vulnerable to tsunamis. These are large waves generated by big magnitude earthquakes occurring on the ocean floor.

Coastal villages in Zambales and Aurora have recorded incidents of large tidal waves occurring since the 16th century.

RDCC members have asked Phivolcs to provide them information on which villages are most at risk.

Julabar said some faults have not moved for a long time. The potential strengths these may unleash are being studied, she said.

The 7.9 magnitude earthquake in July 1990 in Luzon gave a mirror to the destructive force of this natural hazard, she said.

Albano said even as Central Luzon dealt with a major disaster in 1991, the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, the RDCC needed to improve its reporting system. Albano said the RDCC counterparts in the barangays were inactive, springing only to action when disasters actually strike. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Tsunami rumor sends Palawan folk fleeing

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Thousands of residents from about six municipalities in Palawan fled their homes in panic to look for higher grounds after rumor spread that a tsunami that would hit Palawan Saturday night until Sunday morning.

Residents of Cuyo Island, Brooke's Point, Quezon, Rizal, Sofronio Española and Narra rushed to the mountains, some of whom in pajamas and sleepers, with kids and some personal belongings in tow, after a series of text messages alerted them that Quezon town was already submerged in water.

This was triggered by an unusually high tide in the evening.

According to some fishermen, the tide was the highest so far during the last months.

Quezon Mayor Eddie Aureno said they didn't know where the text messages came from.

He said some residents believed that the information came from a Thai national who lives in Quezon.

Apparently, the Thai national received a call from his father who warned him of an impending tsunami in Palawan. But Aureno said he was not sure whether it really came from the Thai national.

At about midnight Sunday, Quezon residents were convinced to go down as there was no official advisory from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

In Brooke's Point, a pregnant woman who was already due, almost gave birth because of stress and nervousness.

Mayor Cesar Benedito said they brought down the woman, Rosario Flores, after she complained of having contractions.

The whole town was awake as everyone rushed to Maruyog Mountain, the nearest higher ground to the poblacion of Brooke's Point.

Some patients of the Brooke's Point District Hospital also went out to reach higher grounds, Benedito said. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

El Niño now felt in North Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Northern Mindanao is already being affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

The lower than average rainfall in the region, despite rains in most parts of Mindanao, is raising fears that the water level of Lake Lanao would go down and adversely affect the island's power supply.

An advisory report from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) alerted government offices to low levels of rainfall in some parts of the country.

Mindanao draws most of its power needs from hydro sources such as the Agus System in Iligan City and the Pulangui hydropower plant in Bukidnon.

In 1990, the prolonged dry season severely affected power supply on the island.

But Gerry Pedrico, officer-in-charge of Pag-asa Davao, said that compared to previous years, the El Niño that will hit the country this year is milder.

Prisco Nilo, Pagasa deputy director for operations and services, said some areas in the country still experience above average rainfall. *Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

8 more quakes felt in Taal

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A day after two low-intensity earthquakes sent hundreds of residents fleeing their homes at the foot of Taal Volcano, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) based at this camp yesterday said eight more low-intensity tremors were recorded within the island volcano.

Quoting the latest bulletin from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Calabarzon RDCC chair Armando Duque said the whole island was still at alert level 1 following the series of weak seismic activities on Monday.

"(We) reiterate that the entire volcano island is a permanent danger zone which requires public to be prepared to leave the island immediately if the volcano's activities intensify significantly," a Phivolcs report sent to Duque's office said.

He said observers from Phivolcs detected an Intensity 1 earthquake at the southeast portion of the island at about 9:48 a.m., Monday.

The other quakes were just too weak to be felt by the residents. All were volcanic in nature. *Marlon Ramos and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

FREE CAR WASH

DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Water bursts from a busted pipe in a street corner in Lucena City, giving vehicles passing by a free car wash at the expense of wasted water.

Groups say execs profit from logs

LUCENA CITY—A delegation from a militant coalition of peasant groups and indigenous peoples from the calamity-stricken towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar trooped to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan yesterday and assailed local officials in northern Quezon for allegedly making money from the drifted logs that rolled down the Sierra Madre at the height of Typhoon "Winnie."

According to Fred Torres, chair of Pinag-isang Lakas ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Quezon based in northern Quezon, the logs were not being distributed to the calamity victims for shelter purposes but instead were being cut into pieces and sold to unscrupulous traders.

Torres claimed that some of their members had witnessed how pieces of newly sawn lumber were being loaded in cargo trucks.

"The lumber were covered with copra, sometimes with metal scraps," he told the provincial board members.

However, Torres did not identify the local officials.

"We're in the process of formally documenting the complaints," he told the INQUIRER.

In an earlier interview, Emrich Borja, provincial environment and natural resources officer, also disclosed that a government team had also arrested a suspected hauler of drifted logs in Infanta.

"They enticed the residents to surrender the logs to them in exchange for sacks of rice," Borja said.

"But they could not sneak those drifted logs out of Quezon. It is unlawful and we have set up several checkpoints along the route," he said.

Borja said the drifted logs will be used to repair houses.

He said the distribution of the logs would be left to the local officials. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Meningo stops travel plans of Baguio folk

BAGUIO CITY—Government doctors said no new meningococcemia cases have been reported in Baguio and Benguet in the last three days.

But residents who are due to leave abroad have been discouraged from traveling due apparently to fears of transmitting meningococcemia abroad.

"We were ready to go to the American Embassy because (my daughter) is expected in San Francisco (California), but someone from the embassy advised us to wait until the city is officially cleared by health authorities of meningococcemia," a Baguio resident told the INQUIRER.

Other residents, in calls and text messages to the INQUIRER, said their travel agencies and some embassy personnel had asked them to postpone trips to South Korea and Japan during the Christmas holidays, also due to the meningococcemia scare.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said neither Malacañang, the Department of Foreign Affairs nor the Department of Health has issued travel advisories against Baguio-based residents because of the deadly meningitis strain that has been monitored in the summer capital.

If foreign embassies have voiced their concern about these travelers, it may simply be part of their health protocols that were established when Asians were subjects of stigma because of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Fernandez said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

One of the complaining Baguio residents, a 43-year-old woman, said she was contacted by telephone to postpone securing visa application documents when embassy officials were advised about her address. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

German indicted for Boracay killings of foreigners, Filipina

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.

ILOILO CITY—A German national was indicted for last year's killings of three foreigners and a Filipino on Boracay Island.

In a 10-page resolution, the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office said there are sufficient grounds to charge Uwe Friesl with four counts of murder for the killing of his fellow German Anton Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni, Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento.

The resolution dated Jan. 5 but released yesterday was signed by Provincial Prosecutor Lourdes Quimpo-Mayor.

The complaint against Filipino construction worker Chito Catologo was dismissed for lack of probable cause.

In the resolution, Mayor said he gave weight to the evidence presented by investigators, especially a set of footprint specimens taken near the lavatory of the second floor of the mansion where the bodies of three victims where found. The blood-caked footprints matched those of Friesl.

In his counter-affidavit, Friesl, 37, said his footprints were there because the police asked him to help identify the victims shortly after the bodies were found.

Friesl, a mechanic, has been residing on the island since 1999 and helped Forstenhausler build the mansion. He said he was out drinking with friends when the crime was committed.

He also denied a statement of a police witness who said that he saw Forstenhausler scolding Friesl on April 30, a day before the killings.

In a statement released earlier to the INQUIRER, Friesl accused the police of using him as a "scapegoat" because of pressure from top officials to solve the case.

He said he has no reason to harm Forstenhausler because his fellow German was a close friend and someone he "liked very much and admired."

Vigilantes continue killings of Davao crime suspects

DAVAO CITY—The vigilante-style killings that target suspected criminals here continues.

For the past 11 days, suspected members of the shadowy Davao Death Squad have already shot and killed 17 people.

On Monday alone, at least four persons, some of them accused of wrongdoing, were gunned down one by one by motorcycle-riding men.

Hilario Ortega, a laborer, was killed in Barangay Ulas, near the Coca-Cola plant by motorcycle-riding men. Ortega was shot in the head.

A few hours earlier, suspected DDS hit men, two of them wearing police uniforms, shot and killed Gerardo Campiseno, a carpenter.

Campiseno had just been released from police custody after he was investigated on charges of molesting a stepdaughter.

At around 2:45 p.m., Diana Toronan, 41, a fish and fruit vendor, and a resident of Quezon Boulevard, Barangay 31-D, was shot dead by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

The Sta. Ana police said Toronan was believed to be a pusher.

Prior to Toronan's death, Reynaldo Villahermosa, 39, a former member of the Philippine Constabulary (PC), was executed near a liquified petroleum gas store in Buhangin District.

On Sunday, Dante Galarce, a resident of Agdao, died after he was shot by suspected DDS hit men.

Around 10 p.m. of the same day, Intong Gonzales alias Pasmo, 27, of Barayko, Barangay 7-A, was killed after armed men shot him in Bangkerohan District.

Earlier that day, a newspaper dealer was also slain by motorcycle-riding suspects, a few meters from where Gonzales was later to be gunned down.

Despite the daring attacks, police failed to arrest any suspect in the recent killings.

Last year, a suspected DDS hit man was arrested after a terminal barker was shot dead in Ecoland Terminal here.

However, Romeo Taeza, 38, of Barangay Matina Gravahan, was later released for lack of evidence.

What sped up his release was the affidavit of desistance filed by Lucy Maalam, common-law-wife of his alleged victim, Hilario Daylo, 37, of Barangay 76-A in Bolton Isla.

Militant groups have been pressuring authorities to vigorously pursue the killers but police said the lack of witnesses was hampering their efforts. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A battle of perception

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

THE MENINGOCOCCEMIA "incident" may be contained, according to the Department of Health. But a more engaging battle continues and it is a battle that Baguio City is losing.

At the forefront of this "battle of semantics" are the standard medical terms, like "outbreak," "epidemic," "calamity," "alert," "suspected cases" and even "command post."

Doctors would easily use these supposedly harmless terms for the situation in Baguio, but it is a resort city that depends on tourism for most of its revenues.

"This is a battle of perception," said Anthony de Leon, Baguio Country Club general manager.

Dr. Luningning Villa, head of the DOH infectious diseases unit and spokesperson of the newly formed meningococcemia command post in Baguio, had to think hard before blurting her words during press conferences.

Villa would not use the word "outbreak" but instead used "unusual increase."

US-CDC primer

The United States-based Center for Disease Control (CDC) has no such qualms. In its meningococcemia primer, CDC defined a meningococcal outbreak as "the occurrence of three or more confirmed or probable cases of meningococcal disease during a period of less than three months with a resulting primary attack rate of more than 10 cases per 100,000 population."

Baguio, which has a population of 350,000, has 34 cases, suspected and laboratory-confirmed, since March last year, but almost all of the cases occurred in the past three months.

From Dec. 25, 2004, to Jan. 7, 2005, there was almost one case admitted daily at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, which was why the city government, the DOH and the World Health Organization formed the "meningococcemia command post."

Or make that now the "meningococcemia operation center."

"Some people find 'command post' as too militaristic although that is the WHO term," Villa said.

But talk of "outbreak" and people would have in mind the 1995 Hollywood movie of the same title with Dustin Hoffman as a doctor trying to contain an epidemic of a deadly airborne virus capable of wiping out the population of the US in two days.

The Baguio health department in November not only had to omit "outbreak" from its statement but also "airborne" which is what the meningo-causing bacteria is not. Meningococcemia is bacterial and not viral, city health officials said.

No epidemic alert

Baguio, however, has not reached the epidemic alert.

According to WHO, in hyperendemic (a disease organism which coexists with its host population, producing disease in a predictable way with no major fluctuations in frequency) areas, an epidemic is declared when there are 15 cases per 100,000 a week over two consecutive weeks.

The next furor on this rhetorical battle was when the city council tried to declare the city a "calamity area" to access funds to a P12-million calamity fund.

Calamity is defined as "an event resulting in great loss and misfortune." The term may be cataclysmic but that is how the government rationalizes the use of the calamity fund. Local governments normally declare their place a "calamity area" even after a strong typhoon just to access the fund.

During a press conference on Monday, a local broadcast journalist who covers police cases even questioned the use of the word "suspected case" because it gives a wrong connotation, maybe thinking of a "suspected criminal."

Villa said the term "suspected case" was a standard medical term defined as "a case that meets the clinical case definition."

Even the weblogs or blogs are into this semantic battle.

MARIVIC Mosuela, 12, and Meljones Lamas, 8 months, have proven that meningococcemia can be beaten.

EV ESPIRITU

For meningo survivors, miracles do happen

By Desiree Caluza
La Trinidad, Benguet

IF IT is a miracle, only God knows it is. My child survived; miracles do happen."

Thus said Magdalena Lamas, the mother of meningococcemia survivor Meljones, an 8-month-old boy.

Meljones, who recovered from the disease a week after he was taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center in November last year, is the youngest recorded survivor of the disease.

Lamas said doctors who treated Meljones, then 6 months old when he contracted the disease, were amazed at his fast recovery.

"They said it was a miracle when they saw that the rashes in my baby were gone. The doctors themselves were very happy. They said it helped that I took my child to the hospital immediately before anything worse happened," she said.

Health officials said 50 percent of patients afflicted with meningoccocemia last year had recovered. Dr. Florence Reyes, city health officer, said most of these patients survived because they were taken to the hospital early and before the disease reached an advanced stage.

Lamas, whose family lives in La Trinidad, Benguet, said she could not believe that Meljones, the youngest among her seven children, would contract the disease. She said she did not even know what meningoccocemia was.

"My son is an active baby. He moves a lot and is very mischievous when his siblings play with him. But there was one time that I noticed that he suffered from an on-and-off fever. The fever was still there even if we had given him medicines," Lamas said.

Neighbor's case

Lamas' neighbor is the Mosuela family. Marivic Mosuela suffered from meningococcemia and like Meljones, has recovered.

Mosuela, a Grade 6 pupil at the Alno Elementary School in La Trinidad and Meljones' unofficial nanny, playmate and *ate* (elder sister), was confined at the BGHMC in October and took three weeks to recover. Her case was the first in Alno.

Mosuela said before she was taken to the hospital, she had a fever and suffered from muscle cramps and severe headache. Her teachers advised her to go home after she felt sick.

At home, her family members noticed that she was very weak. Later, she suffered from convulsion and fainted. She was taken to the hospital the following morning.

Doctors also noticed rashes all over Mosuela's body.

Hilda, Mosuela's mother, said she was very nervous when she saw her daughter's medical attendants wearing surgical masks.

"I asked them, why did they have to wear those masks? What was happening to my child? That was when they told me that she had meningococcemia," the mother said.

"I thought I was going to die because I felt so weak. I just prayed and prayed. It was my mother who took care of me. Aside from the medicines that were given me, it was the nutritious food that my mother fed me that saved me," Mosuela said.

> 'I thought I was going to die because I felt so weak. I just prayed and prayed'

Prayers saved her

Her mother believed that it was prayers that saved her child.

"I prayed to the Lord that it was up to Him if He wants to take my child, but I still prayed to ask Him to let my child live," she said.

Doctors advised Mosuela to rest for a week before going back to school.

But Mosuela said she felt the stigma when she reported for class.

"My classmates were afraid of talking to me. Their parents asked my classmates to avoid playing with me because I had meningococcemia. But I kept on telling them that I was cured, that I was not suffering from the disease anymore," Mosuela said in Filipino.

Her mother said the treatment that her child received from her peers always broke her heart.

"I would just tell Marivic to ignore the taunts because it was never her choice to get sick in the first place," she said.

However, things suddenly changed for Mosuela after a massive information campaign on the disease was relayed through the media. She said it helped that she was able to share her story and experiences to her friends who wanted to know more about the disease.

"At least the treatment (I'm getting from my peers) now has changed. My teacher and my classmates always want me to share my story. Of course, I tell them to practice a healthy lifestyle because that is the best defense against the disease, according to the doctors. I feel much better now," she said.

EV ESPIRITU

BAND leader Chavi Romawac wears a mask as a joke amid the paranoia caused by wrong information about meningococcemia.

She has been cured, lost her legs, but people avoid her like a leper

By Donna Demetillo
Baguio City

HELEN Joy Mapili, 14, was once part of the group of vendors being chased by policemen in downtown Baguio. Laughing, she recalled how fast she used to run when policemen came to take her goods away.

But now she can no longer run from them or play *patintero* with friends. She lost both her legs due to a complication from the bacterial disease meningococcemia.

Helen is now back home, lacking in body parts but undaunted and intact in spirit. The only traces of her ordeal are thick scabs left by rashes and some bandages from her operation.

She was taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center with a high fever on Dec. 6.

Her mother Mary Ann said Helen was still well when she left for school that morning. At around lunch, Helen came to their vegetable store in the city market to eat.

But complaining of a headache, dizziness and chilling, Helen did not return to school. Later that night, her parents took her to the hospital.

"I knew something was seriously wrong with her when she soiled her pants and brownish rashes started to appear on her arms and legs. That was when we decided to take her to the hospital," her mother said.

Helen was clinically diagnosed to have meningococcemia. By then, the rashes had spread to her face and were darker. Despite some health personnel warning them to expect the worst, her mother refused to give in to fear.

"I did not want to think about the possibility of my daughter dying, so I just left it all in the hands of God," Mary Ann said.

"I pity my daughter. I thought she would die. Doctors told me to just pray. I thank God because He willed my daughter to live," said Helen's father Rodrigo, unable to hold back his tears.

Scared

Helen said she was scared when she found out what disease was afflicting her. She knew it was a dangerous disease based on what she had learned from television reports. But like her mother, she prayed.

Her mother said their first 24 hours in the hospital was the most difficult, her daughter suffering from a very high fever.

Helen, her mother said, was conscious but she was talking gibberish. It was only later that her mother was finally able to talk to Helen and made sense of her stories.

The following day, Helen's legs darkened and could not feel anything, except for sharp pains once in a while.

"*Parang kinukuryente ang mga paa ko* (It was as if my legs were being subjected to electric shocks)," said Helen, who would scream in pain and cry for 30 minutes until the pain subsided.

Her mother said Helen's legs, even her fingers, were cold and stiff despite the warm compresses they applied on these.

Holidays in hospital

Doctors observed the patient's condition for about two more weeks. The family spent Christmas and New Year in the hospital, hoping Helen would get better.

Her mother said a doctor from Manila also tried to revive Helen's legs through electric shock, but failed.

On Dec. 30, Helen's legs were amputated. Her right leg was cut from below the knee, while her left leg was amputated above the knee.

Her right hand has no fingers; in her left hand, only the thumb and pinky remain.

Dr. Antonio Bautista, medical specialist of the Department of Health in the Cordillera, said Helen's case was unusual.

Bautista said complications resulting in amputations were unusual occurrences in meningococcemia cases and might be caused by other underlying conditions, such as high blood sugar level.

In fact, among the patients reported in the region, only Helen had undergone amputations. The rest of the patients recovered, while late diagnosis resulted in fatalities, Bautista said.

Helen had received the crutches promised by Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon, but she fears her friends would laugh at her or treat her like an outcast after she recovered from the disease that has stalked the city since October.

Already, her neighbors have been covering their mouths and noses whenever they meet one of her relatives. People have also been avoiding her aunt and cousins, Helen said.

Stigma

Aside from the stigma and the loss of friends, Helen's family has to cope with their financial problems. Helen and her mother are the family's breadwinners; her father is unemployed.

The fifth of seven children, Helen used to take bundles of vegetables from their rented stall in the city market to sell on sidewalks.

After school, she would go to the market to pick up her load, which she would sell until around 8 p.m. On weekends, she would spend the same routine to augment the family income by at least P200 daily.

With the loss of her legs and fingers, Helen's world has been reduced to nights kept awake by her throbbing legs, a small bench covered by a thin mattress and some blankets, and the walls of her grandfather's house.

Her mother lost her job as a babysitter. Although her former employer lent her P5,000 to buy two vials of antibiotics when the hospital supply ran out, the employer fired her for fear that his children would contract the disease.

Mother's worry

These days, her mother only goes out of the house to follow up documents in availing of Helen's school insurance. Her mother's biggest worry now is how Helen will survive when she and her husband are both gone.

But Helen has not lost hope. She plans to go back to school after her wounds have healed.

Alleged FPJ group claims it burned ABS van

From page A1

the hope of the masses."

ABS-CBN said it "will not be deterred and will remain committed to our duty in the service of the Filipino.

"No one was hurt despite what appeared to be a well-planned operation which specifically targeted the media," the network said in a statement. "We are taking appropriate security measures and working with the authorities in the ongoing investigation."

The attack came a day after Poe's widow, Susan Roces, asked the Supreme Court to allow her to pursue his protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo to show he was robbed of the presidency.

Six armed men

Police said at least six armed men walked up to the OB van parked in front of a Petron gas station on Shaw Boulevard in Barangay Wack Wack at around 4:30 a.m.

SPO4 Arnaldo Tarrayo said the unidentified men had alighted from a green Besta Van.

The gunmen ordered TV crew Howell Landerito, Richmond Ojana and security guard Aris Villamor to get out of the van and lie face down, according to Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez. The three were preparing for the traffic monitoring segment of the network's morning show "Magandang Umaga Bayan."

The gunmen took Landerito's Nokia 3310 cell phone. They also made sure that the remaining five members of the TV crew did not come close to the van while one of the gunmen ignited a molotov bomb, according to Velasquez.

He said all the gunmen were wearing bonnets except for the one who lit the bomb.

Velasquez said the gunmen made sure that the van would burn because they waited at least five minutes before they boarded a getaway vehicle and headed toward Kalentong.

Within 15 minutes, the accessories, gadgets and equipment used for broadcasting and monitoring inside the Ford 350 van were gutted, according to Velasquez.

WHERE ABS-CBN OB vans are, such as this one on the Senate grounds, security has been tightened after the burning of one of its vans early Tuesday. REM ZAMORA

Attack on press freedom

The National Capital Region Police Office immediately met with ABS-CBN executives to arrange security for its other vans.

Senators deplored the burning of the ABS-CBN van, saying it was a direct attack on press freedom.

Senators Manuel Villar Jr. and Richard Gordon said the incident had no place in a free country where freedom of expression and of the press were the cornerstones of governance.

"The media should not be punished for doing its job," said Gordon, who stressed that "there are individuals who will have a bias in reporting because they are being paid or they have their own beliefs."

Those complaints should be brought before proper forums "but you do not burn the media because that is an attack on free speech," he said.

But Villar cautioned Malacañang against immediately blaming the incident on the opposition, particularly supporters of Poe. "The government should investigate this thoroughly."

Worn out script

Senators Edgardo Angara and Jinggoy Estrada said the political opposition could never sanction such a deplorable act.

"FPJ might rise in his grave if his supporters would do it," said Estrada, adding that the destabilization plot allegedly hatched by the opposition was a worn-out script.

Angara said he did not see any reason why fans of FPJ would burn the ABS-CBN van.

He said that if Susan Roces' statement blaming the giant network for negative campaign reporting in the May elections generated ill-will and bitterness among Poe supporters, "the reaction should have been instantaneous."

E-mail to GMA 7

Angara said it was too hasty to conclude that Poe's camp was behind the burning just on the say-so of a faxed statement.

In an e-mail sent to rival network GMA 7 at around 9:30 a.m., the group K said it had "no intention whatsoever to rob the Petron gasoline station" and that the "crew or the people in the vicinity were in no danger" from them as it was never part of the plan to harm them.

"Our target was exactly to set fire to the ABS-CBN OB van," according to the message sent through juandelacruz11105@yahoo.com.

The sender claimed the gunmen took the mobile phone of one of the network's crew members "to prevent him from contacting authorities which he attempted to do on site."

Message to ABS-CBN

A more lengthy message titled "ABS-CBN: Sinungaling (Liar)" contained more scathing messages written in Filipino against the media giant.

"The people's choice was clear during the last election," the group K said. "They shouted only one name nationwide, throughout the campaign, and on the day of the election."

But the sender claimed "media turned a deaf ear to the popular choice and allowed power-hungry politicians to push their vested interests."

The media, according to the group, allowed themselves to be a propaganda machine to cover the massive cheating. "They were used to belittle and destroy the dignity of the leader who gave hope to the poor."

Misleading

Senior Supt. Velasquez is wary of the claim of responsibility through e-mail. "For all we know, this could be just a way of misleading the investigators," he said.

Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela, head of the Eastern Police District, noted that the purpose of the e-mail was specifically to send one letter. Even the numbers on the address juandelacruz11105@yahoo.com indicated the date Jan. 11, 2005.

Valenzuela said he would direct the technical people of the Philippine National Police to trace the IP address of the e-mail to identify the source computer.

Each computer connected to the Internet has a unique identifying number called the IP address. Through this, the exact location of a computer could be traced. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

IN THE KNOW

What is an OB van?

"OB VAN" stands for Outside Broadcast van, the vehicle that makes live broadcasts outside the studio possible.

The news broadcast van makes use of an antenna mast, or a high pole that can transmit as far as its line of sight, said Pal Marquez, director for technical services of ABS-CBN's news division.

Microwave technology is used in the signal transmission and reception from the van to a remote studio.

Equipment that can be found in an OB van include monitors, cameras, cables, video editing equipment, audio mixing equipment, video wave form and a microwave transmitter.

The vans are standard equipment for the live news coverage of TV networks, Marquez said. "Even (chief rival) GMA 7."

Marquez said he was not at liberty to reveal the cost of a van. "Suffice it to say that it is very costly."

An industry source said OB vans cost up to P24 million when bought three to four years ago. Today, one could go for as high as P35 million, the source said.

PDI RESEARCH

Lanao del Sur lawmaker slams cops' Islamophobia

From page A1

country."

'Tremors of paranoia'

Macarambon denounced the Jan. 7 raid on the Islamic Foundation Center and said the arrests showed the "tremors of ignorance, prejudice and paranoia" rumbling through the country.

"Indeed, such are the tremors that cultivate Islamophobia and Islamic paranoia among our law enforcers," he fumed.

Macarambon said such an attitude had bred "the impression that Muslim Filipinos in Metro Manila live only in Quiapo, Culiat or Maharlika Village; or that Muslims make a living selling cheap sunglasses in the streets and are uneducated war freaks you would do well to avoid in a dark alley."

This predominantly Christian country has "never embraced its Muslims" and always treated them as outsiders, he said.

Absurd myths

"For hundreds of years, Muslims in the Philippines have been bearing the brunt of the corruption, ignorance and bigotry that lives and breeds in the very institutions responsible for these raids," Macarambon said.

He said the legend "of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that has ever been repeated.

"Today, absurd myth has turned to even more absurd stereotypes, for apparently in the police mind, the traditional Muslim juramentado has become the 20th century fanatical terrorist, stone-thrower and suicide bomber."

Macarambon said this was what had made up the Muslim experience in this country.

King Faisal award

"And it makes Muslim hearts bleed that no matter what they do to be as much part of this country as they can, they are not wanted."

Macarambon gave particular emphasis to Alonto, son of the late former Sen. Domocao Alonto, who helped create the Mindanao State University.

"Senator Alonto himself was a recipient of the King Faisal award for peace," Macarambon said. "Is this not the gravest travesty? That the son of a revered Muslim leader, who devoted his life to the pursuit of peace, now languishes in a squalid Filipino jail cell, accused by his arresting officers of the high crime of terrorism?"

Macarambon charged that even the Holy Koran, "a book central and sacred to the Islamic way of life, was desecrated with the raiding team's filthy hands in the name of a supposed search."

Filthy boats

"Afgani Alonto's head, clean and pure from his ablution and fresh from prostration from prayer, [was] held to the ground by a member of the raiding team's filthy boots," he added.

Investigating inquest prosecutor Elseray Faith Noro recommended that only Alonto and Ricalde be charged in court.

Her recommendation was approved by Chief Inquest Prosecutor Nelson Salva, who also ordered the release of Muamar Adam, Josefino Anor and Alian Napia.

"There was no sufficient evidence to immediately [charge them in court], and so their cases would undergo preliminary investigation," Salva told the INQUIRER.

Upon Noro's questioning, agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) testified that Ricalde was caught carrying a .45-cal. pistol and a grenade during the raid, Salva said, recounting what happened at the inquest.

A machine gun was allegedly found under the desk near where Alonto was arrested.

Evidence 'planted'

A box containing parts used to assemble explosives was also supposedly found inside the room where Alonto was.

Officials of a local Islamic group said they had witnesses who would testify that police had planted the evidence against the suspects. Alonto's family said he had come to Manila to tutor people on the Koran and the Arabic language.

Chief Insp. Jesus Kabigting, CIDG General Investigation Branch chief, said the case against Adam, Anor and Napia was weak, considering that the guns and explosives purportedly found at the center were not in their possession during the raid.

Just visitors

"It was really weak because they're not really the occupants of the place," he told the INQUIRER. "It's like in a party, they're just visitors."

Kabigting said: "Our case against them (Alonto and Ricalde) is really strong because they're the occupants of the office."

Prosecutors have recommended bail of P180,000 each for the pair, said Taha Basman, a leader of the Philippine Islamic Movement, which has condemned the raid.

Show report, solon dares cops

A HOUSE leader yesterday asked the Philippine National Police to make public its report about an alleged plot by Islamic extremists to bomb the Black Nazarene procession by Islamic extremists last Sunday.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin (Basilan) said in a statement that the PNP should not keep people in the dark about the plot, if was true.

If the information was sensitive, Salapuddin suggested that the PNP brief congressmen, particularly those from Mindanao, in a closed-door meeting.

"We hope to get to the bottom of the matter amid counter-charges by the police and the suspects," Salapuddin said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Army, Moro commanders 'text mates'

From page A1

Tundok, now the object of a military manhunt, gave no inkling in his text message that he was about to attack.

Troops recaptured the detachment on Monday afternoon and fighting has subsided after bloody clashes in Barangay Linantangan in which at least 17 rebels and seven soldiers were killed, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Raul Relano, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said rebel casualties could rise to as many as 50 since the military had bombarded the rebels with 105-mm howitzer cannons and bombs from OB10 bombers.

Detachment torched

"We fired 150 rounds of howitzers. They hit their targets accurately," he said.

Relano said seven soldiers died while one was wounded.

Two soldiers who had been taken hostage by the rebels were later recovered alive.

"The firefight has stopped," Relano told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, adding that Moro rebels had torched the detachment before fleeing.

The firefight raged until the military brought in reinforcements.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu confirmed hostilities had stopped.

"Since yesterday, there had been no fighting on the ground," he said.

Kabalu said only one MILF fighter was killed.

Pursuit operations

The military said Sunday's attack was led by Tundok and another commander named Faizal and was meant to avenge the death of Bides Binago, who had a brother in the MILF.

Government forces have launched pursuit operations against the retreating MILF group.

Relano said he hoped the MILF leadership would help in the capture of the renegade group which supposedly acted "independently" of the MILF.

"We consider them as rebels and we will run after them," Relano declared.

Kabalu said the wayward commander would be punished depending on the results of an investigation by the joint GRP-MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

MILF disowns attackers

"Let us wait for the findings and recommendations of the CCCH," he said.

Members of both the CCCH and an international monitoring team composed of Malaysian and other international monitors arrived yesterday morning in Linantangan to conduct an investigation.

MILF Vice Chair for Political Affairs Ghadzali Jaafar disowned Tundok's group and the attack, saying they had acted on their own. He said the Moro rebels were strictly observing their ceasefire with the government.

"This is an independent decision of a few that is totally outside the realm of the MILF who had a 'misdirected' sympathy with Abu Sufyan Commander Bedis Abdulrahman (Binago), who died in battle against government troops in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat recently," Jaafar said in a statement.

Military blamed, too

He added: "We regret to say that this bloodletting has been taking place even as the ceasefire is holding effectively in Mindanao and the MILF-GRP peace talks have resumed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, recently."

But Jaafar also protested the "blatant disregard" of the terms of the ceasefire by government troops when soldiers launched the operation in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, "without the slightest effort to inform us through the MILF CCCH."

"Their excessive use of force and firepower has sent thousands of civilians fleeing their homes, leaving behind their properties and work animals," Jaafar continued.

The two sides had signed a ceasefire in 2002 but this had been repeatedly breached in the past.

The formal peace talks between the two sides are due to start in February in Kuala Lumpur. They are holding exploratory talks at this time.

Alliance among rebels

The bodies of the slain soldiers were recovered inside the ravaged military base.

Six of them were identified as Cpl. Cesar Piedad, Pfc. Asihkon Matli, Pfc. Alnadzer Atari and Privates Roque Bantolo, Alex Cabaya and Mark Majomot, all members of the 37th Infantry Battalion.

Another soldier killed, a certain Pfc. Lumacad, was taken by the withdrawing rebels for unclear reasons.

Jalandoni said Sunday's attack proved that there existed an alliance between some MILF fighters and the bandit gangs Abu Sofia and the Abu Sayyaf, whose members were also allegedly involved in the assault.

"But we believe the MILF leadership is unaware of this," he said.

On Nov. 19, the military attacked an area belonging to the MILF's 105th Brigade following reports that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was sighted in the area.

Civilians suffer

"Bides Binago and some MILF members served as Hapilon's local contact and guides while the ASG leader was in Central Mindanao," Jalandoni said.

Despite the clashes, Kabalu said the MILF was determined to pursue the peace talks and was abiding by the ceasefire accord.

The clashes displaced thousands of villagers who have yet to recover from the effects of previous encounters between soldiers and MILF rebels.

Kagi Guimla, a 50-year-old farmer, said civilians, mostly women, the elderly and children, fled at the first gunburst on Sunday night.

"We have been through several wars, but this one was too close. I saw the rebels crawling near our house shortly before midnight Sunday," he said.

Palace to MILF: Impose sanctions

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG wants the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to impose sanctions on its members who were involved in fierce fighting with soldiers in Maguindanao.

"The renegades will be held to account for the treacherous attack," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

He said the members of joint ceasefire committees and an international monitoring team were working closely with both sides to restore order in the area.

Bunye echoed a statement of MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, who said that the clashes would not derail the resumption of peace talks between the government and the rebels.

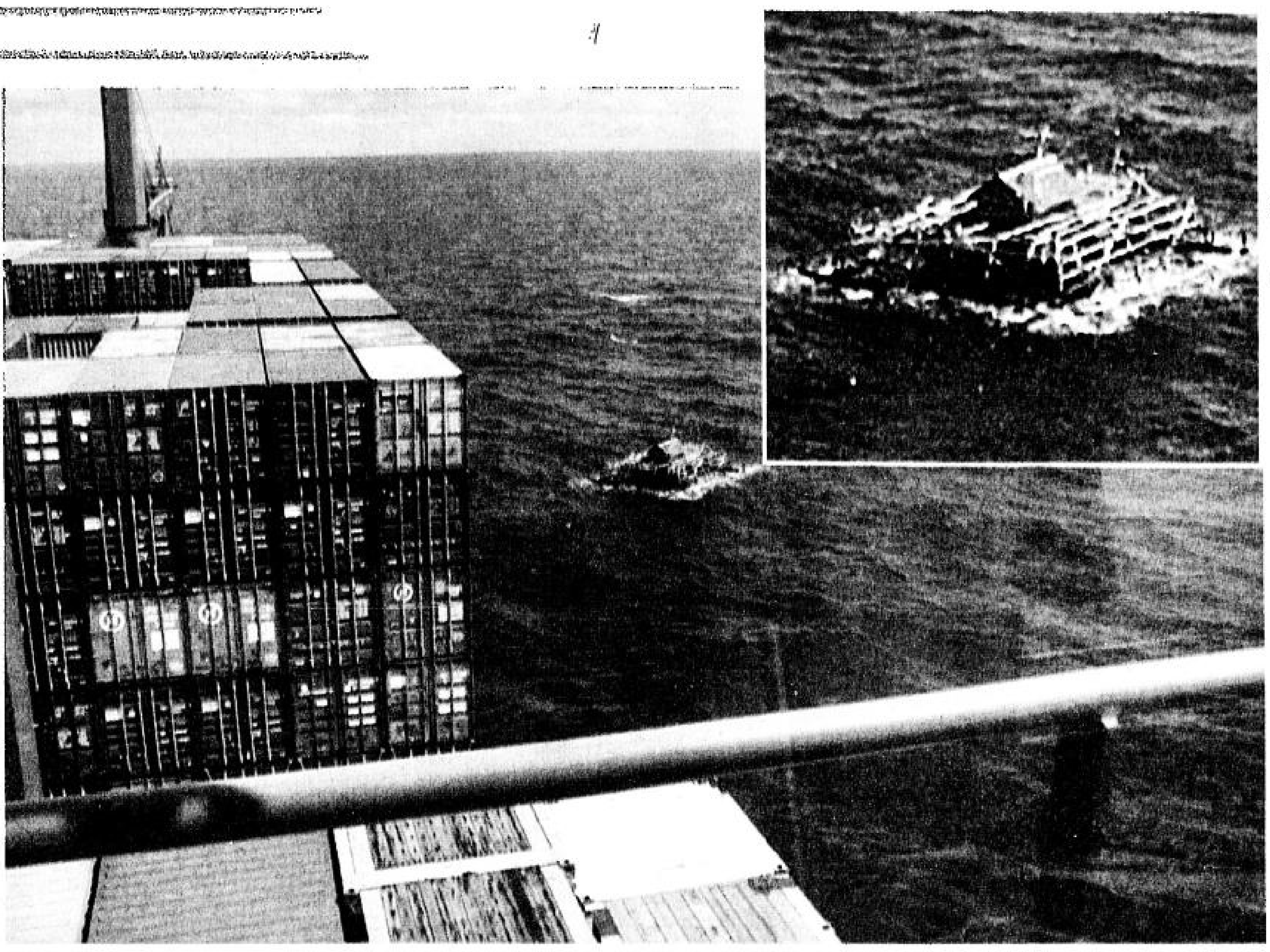
"This is an isolated case. The perpetrators are being pursued and law and order are being restored," Bunye said.

"Nevertheless, we assure that the skirmishes will not in any way affect the ongoing peace negotiations," Bunye said.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TSUNAMI SURVIVORS

A SENTIMENTAL return to the tree that gave her refuge in Aceh province for tsunami victim 15-year-old Sri Rezeni. AFP



THE FISHING raft (enlarged photo inset) on which Indonesian Ari Afrizal drifted at sea for two weeks before being rescued and brought to West Port in Klang near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At first, Afrizal floated on pieces of wood, then a broken boat before latching on to the fishing raft. AFP

He lived on prayers while adrift at sea

From page A1

day, hauled him aboard and brought him to Malaysia late Monday.

Construction worker

Ari, 21, was working on a construction site in the Indonesian province of Aceh on Dec. 26 when a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the resulting tsunami swept him and his friends out to sea.

"The earthquake lasted about 15 minutes," Ari told reporters late Monday after Al Yamamah docked at Port Klang near the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. "Then the waves came, big, big waves that slammed down hard on us."

Ari, who appeared fit despite the ordeal, said he and his co-workers were swept out to sea and clung onto passing pieces of wood.

"I recall seeing four of my friends hanging onto wood but we drifted away from each other as the waves rolled us out further into the sea," Ari said.

Before he was taken to a hospital on Monday night, Ari told reporters that he saw "many bodies" and debris floating around him.

5th day

"I prayed and prayed. I told God I don't want to die ... I worried about my elderly parents and asked for a chance to take care of them," Ari said. "As if my prayers were answered, a broken sampan (boat) floated toward me a few days later."

On the fifth day, he saw a huge fishing raft and swam out to it, thinking he would be rescued. But the raft was unmanned. It contained, however, some bottles of fresh water. He ate coconuts that he found floating in the sea, husking the soft ones with his teeth.

Ari said many ships passed by without noticing him until the Al Yamamah came along. The ship's captain, John Kennedy of New Zealand, said he did not expect to find any survivors when his crew spotted the raft, because nearly two weeks had passed since the tsunami. The crew sounded a whistle anyway.

"To our surprise, a frail-looking man emerged," Kennedy said. He said Ari looked fine except for parched lips and even managed to board the ship without help.

Thinking of parents

As he was being taken to a hospital for a checkup, Ari could only think of his parents.

"I pray that my family in Aceh is also as lucky as me and survived the disaster," he said.

Ari is the third Indonesian tsunami survivor rescued from the sea and brought to Malaysia.

A Malaysian tuna ship on Dec. 30 rescued a pregnant woman who held on to a floating sago palm tree for five days. She was badly sun burnt and bitten by fish, but her baby was safe.

2nd miracle survivor

The second miracle survivor was a man from Aceh who drifted for eight days before being spotted by a Japanese-owned cargo ship. He clung to floating planks with scores of other people—all of whom were eventually swallowed by the sea.

Malaysian authorities have allowed Ari to stay and work in Malaysia after he said the tragedy left him with nothing in his hometown.

Indonesia suffered more deaths from the tsunami than any other country—more than 100,000. In Malaysia, 68 were confirmed killed and more than 200 injured on its northwestern coast, which is separated from Indonesia's worst-hit Sumatra island by a narrow strait. *AP*

BACK from the dead: Ari Afrizal in a hospital in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur recounts to reporters how he subsisted on coconuts and prayers for two weeks in the Indian Ocean before being rescued by a container ship. AP

Digitally Enhanced Cordless Telephone

DECT
Digital Multi-Handset Clear Sound Long Range

KX-TCD500
P6,690

Panasonic
ideas for life

Panasonic Wireless Technology...
Smart people choose Panasonic

KX-TCD400
P3,590
Also available in blue

KX-TC1230
P5,490

KX-TC1220
P3,890

KX-TC1210
P3,090

KX-TC2000
P1,880

IMPORTANT SERVICE NOTICE

Panasonic Philippines notifies the public that we are not allowed to repair Panasonic 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones as per regulation by National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). Such cordless phones are illegal in the Philippines and they may interfere cellular phones, etc. In this regard, we advise the consumers not to buy 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones. All the Panasonic cordless phones distributed by Panasonic Philippines comply with the regulations and are type-approved by NTC.

KEY FEATURES	KX-TC2000	KX-TC1210	KX-TC1220	KX-TC1230	KX-TCD400	KX-TCD500
Frequency Range	46 MHz - 49MHz	46 MHz - 49MHz	46 MHz - 49MHz	46 MHz - 49MHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz
Caller-ID Compatible*		•	•	•		•
Caller-ID Memory*		50 stations	50 stations	50 stations		50 stations
Ringer Melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	14 melodies	15 melodies
Polyphonic Ring Tones						32 tones
Key Lock					•	•
Navigator Key		•	•	•	•	
Joystick						•
Large LCD with Blue Backlight						•
Lighted Handset Keypad	•	•	•	•		•
Phone Directory	11 stations	30 stations	30 stations	30 stations	20 stations	200 stations
Handset Locator (Paging)	•	•	•	•		•
Intercom w/ 2-way paging			•	•		
Speakerphone			•	•		•
Dual Keypads			•	•		
Digital Answering System				•		
Recording Time				up to 15 mins.		
Multi-Handset Capability (Optional)						up to 6 handsets

*Note: Caller ID Subscription required. Prices (SRP based) and features are subject to change without prior notice.

For dealer referrals, please call:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation)
Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 · Fax No. 897-4558 · Email address: system@mepco.panasonic.com.ph

SUPPLIES and materials aboard vehicles assigned to the USS Bonhomme Richard and Expeditionary Strike Group Five are rushed to tsunami survivors in the city of Meulaboh in Sumatra, Indonesia. AP

Even on hold, your call ...

From page A1

the performance of call center operators, but the professional snoops are inadvertently monitoring callers, too.

Household sounds

Most callers do not realize that they may be taped even while they are on hold.

It is at these times that monitors hear husbands arguing with their wives, mothers yelling at their children, and dog owners throwing fits at disobedient pets, all when they think no one is listening. Most times, the only way a customer can avoid being recorded is to hang up.

Call monitors eavesdrop on millions of exchanges a year. Listening to the mumblings and rants of people on hold comes with the job.

Overall, about 2 percent of the hundreds of millions of calls made to call centers are monitored by a company's own managers or, increasingly, by third-party monitoring companies, which have come on the scene in the last couple of years.

The difference

The business of assessing the behavior of call center operators has taken on a new urgency in recent years. With so many companies selling similar products at similar prices, competent and professional customer service agents have become the difference between a sale and a lost opportunity, a burnished brand and a tarnished one.

That reality has turned third-party call monitoring into a fast-growing industry watching over the nation's 6 million call center operators as well as hundreds of thousands of their counterparts offshore.

The growth of monitoring has also been fueled by the advent of Internet phone technology, which has substantially cut the cost of long-distance calls and made call monitoring as easy as clicking a mouse.

Sophisticated software that automatically records conversations has increased the number of calls monitors can assess.

Outsourcing monitors

As more call centers move offshore, companies are starting to outsource the monitoring too. From any corner of the globe, call monitors with just a computer and an Internet connection can oversee call center workers virtually anywhere. *New York Times*

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

EZ2 12 20
SUERTRES 2 8 5
SIX DIGIT 9 9 3 6 2 5 (In exact order)
6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min 10 18 21 22 37 38
SWEEPSTAKES 1 8 7 9 6 2 P

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

New lives, new homes for orphans

By TJ Burgonio

CLEA (not her real name) was put up for adoption by her feuding parents when she was 8 years old.

Weaned away from her roots, siblings and childhood friends in Aklan, she was brought to a cloistered charitable institution run by nuns.

Now 14 years old, Clea leads a comfortable life in a new home where she was happily reunited with two of her siblings. A sophomore at a private high school in Las Piñas City, she finds some subjects tough, but otherwise excels in arts and volleyball.

Clea's new home is the SOS Children's Village, an orphanage inside the posh Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City, which provides a home, a "surrogate family" and education to over 80 orphaned and neglected children like her.

"I'm very happy where I am now. The Village provides me with everything that I need," said the teenager who was referred to SOS by the charitable institution in Aklan which had provided her temporary shelter. "I don't miss home," she added.

A tour around the sprawling, one-hectare Village shows you why.

Here, the children live in brick-walled, duplex houses that can hold at least 10 children, complete with a TV, a personal computer, a refrigerator, gas stove, among other household appliances, and bunk beds.

Homey setting

The cluster of eight one-story houses opens out to a garden and a grassy lawn, a playground and a basketball court.

The children go home to a "full-time mother," who cooks, cleans the house, washes their clothes, tutors them for the next day's lessons, puts them to bed, and yes, attends parents-teachers' association meetings.

Village Director Emmanuel Leyson, stands as the "foster father," while everyone else in the Village, including the office secretary, cook, help, driver, gardener and guard, acts as the children's "uncles" and "aunts."

As if that were enough, the children are sent to school (from grade school to college) paid for through funds from the SOS Children's Villages International.

Everything at the Village had been programmed to achieve its goal of eventually re-integrating the children into the mainstream, according to Leonilo N. Rivero, assistant project coordinator.

"The SOS provides long-term residential care and education to the children until such time that they can be on their own," he said. "It believes in the core principles that each child should be given a mother, a house, then brothers and sisters, a house and a village. The village is their link to the outside world; the village itself is a healing place."

The Village opened in January 1989 to provide shelter to children orphaned, abandoned or neglected by their parents. Other Villages are in Batangas, Leyte, Cebu, Samar, Davao and Iloilo.

SOS Children's Villages Philippines was established on Feb. 29, 1964, but it was not until 1967 when the first Village was opened in Lipa City. Archbishop Fernando R. Capalla, D.D., chairs the board, while Bienvenido L. Delgado is the national director.

Wide network

It is part of a worldwide network of the SOS Children's Village movement founded by the late Prof. Hermann Gmeiner in Austria in 1949. Gmeiner, along with the late Austrian consul Dr. George Winternitz and his wife Susie, introduced the unique concept when he visited Manila in 1963.

The mother is the central figure in the Village, with the director and the rest of the staff merely serving as a support system. A mother is assigned to each of the eight families at the Village.

"I'm up from 4 a.m. up to 9:30 p.m.," said Lilibeth Abella, 34, "acting mother" to Clea and 11 of her "siblings" since May. " I cook, prepare lunch and their snacks for recess. I take care of those who have afternoon classes," By 4:30 p.m., I have to cook dinner. Then we gather to pray at 6 p.m. before dinner. After that, I tutor the little ones. I send the older kids to their 'uncles'."

"Mama" sets the house rules. In the Abella household, for instance, each night is devoted to homework and school projects, except Saturday nights when the children are allowed to watch TV or movies.

On weekends, the children do their own household chores, like tending the garden, preparing meals, mopping the floor and washing the dishes.

"Except for the usual quarrels over toys, I don't have any problem with the kids," said Abella, who has first-hand knowledge of how the system works, having been an SOS Village (Tacloban City) resident herself.

In time, she explains to the children that she is not their biological mother. "I give them advice. I let them realize that we were left in the care of the SOS Village by our parents or relatives, and that we had to accept that. They understand."

If the mother thinks she cannot handle a problem involving one of her wards, she runs to the "village father" for advice. "A mother creates her own home," Rivero said.

Becoming a mother at the SOS Village is tough. One has to go through a rigorous process, including training on parenting and child care, among others, and taking refresher and advanced courses later, depending on her age.

After the training, one gets exposure by playing "aunt" who does the mother's work when she's out, and moves on to become "acting mother." After two years, one gets commissioned as a mother if she passes the test.

"There are no hard and fast rules. When we find out that she has a maternal instinct, we designate her as mother," Rivero explained. "You know she's one when she gives up her day-off and hurries off to school to confront a teacher over a complaint about one of her children."

Back to mainstream

The Village admits children aged 8 and below, but relaxes its rules when an adult who has a brother or a sister in the facility comes knocking on its doors. Most of the children are referrals; walk-ins are rare.

Apart from providing them care, shelter and education, the Village exerts efforts to trace the children's biological parents.

"When a kid says he's capable of living independently, we let him go," said Rivero, who holds degrees in psychology and law. "As long as he is ready to face the challenges outside, and he is not a threat to society, then that's a success story.

"Getting the kids integrated into society is the thrust of the SOS. That's how we measure our success."

CHILDREN at the SOS Village go home to a full-time "mother" who not only keeps house but also helps them with their homework, puts them to bed, and attends parents-teachers' meetings. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

LRT rob probe focuses on station insiders

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE INVESTIGATION into the robbery at the Recto station of the Light Rail Transit Line 2 on Monday is focusing on workers and employees present during the incident.

"Somebody inside the station opened the door for them," said Sr. Insp. Dominador Arevalo, chief of the Western Police District homicide division.

Arevalo added, "The suspects most likely entered the station through the fire exit, which could only be opened from the inside."

Subsequently, cashier Leo Inocentes, eight security guards and four janitors would be subjected to a polygraph or lie detector test.

The 13 employees were reportedly at the station at the corner of CM Recto Avenue and Evangelista Street, in Sta. Cruz, Manila, when two suspects barged in at about 2 a.m.

The suspects shot and killed security guard Arcadio Borja before running off with about P700,000—the station's earnings for three days.

Yesterday, police announced that the employees tested negative after being subjected to a paraffin test.

Pursuing suspicions of an inside job, Arevalo said they would conduct the lie-detector test on the employees in cooperation with the National Bureau of Investigation.

Suspicions were aroused because none of the doors or gates at the LRT station were forced open.

The lights along the hallway believed to have been used by the suspects were also turned off, making the suspects invisible to security cameras.

Earlier, police said the two wore blue T-shirts identical to those worn by janitors from Excellent General Services, which is servicing the station.

Arevalo said the WPD would be looking for dismissed or possibly disgruntled employees from the LRT and from the agencies that supply its janitors and security guards to check if they could have a motive against the LRT management, leading them to rob the facility.

Limited demolition for North Rail begins

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AFTER months of delay, the demolition of houses in Malabon City to give way to the North Rail project finally began, but only on a limited scale.

At least 10 houses in Barangay Tugatog were wrecked on Monday.

Clearing operations began after the owners of the houses agreed to be relocated to Towerville, San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

But the National Housing Authority quickly clarified that they were just assisting families who had agreed to voluntary demolition.

"This is not a sweeping operation but a voluntary demolition," NHA sector manager Maria Theresa Oblipias told the INQUIRER.

The demolition alarmed many families in the area who were still negotiating with the government for their relocation sites.

"We were told this would be a total clearing operation. But we are not yet ready to go," Federation of Railways Informal Settlers in Malabon president Clarita Eneria said.

Her group and its rival, Samahan ng mga Naninirahan sa Riles (Malabon City), have been asking the government to allow them to stay until March 31.

"We want our children to finish the school year first. Otherwise we will have a hard time processing their school records," Eneria said.

Voluntary demolitions for those who agreed to be relocated to Towerville would continue in the next few days, Obilipias said. The NHA is providing trucks for transportation from Malabon City to Towerville.

The NHA has given the more than 3,000 affected families in Malabon City only two choices: Relocation to the government site in Towerville, or avail of the balik-probinsya program and get P50,000 per family, without a relocation site.

Get old vehicles off the road—MMDA

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AS A WAY to ensure safety and decongest Metro Manila's roads, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday gave a final warning to transport operators to get rid of their old and dilapidated vehicles.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the agency had begun apprehending drivers of these vehicles "which have no right to ply the roads."

According to the MMDA chief, 10,000 of the metropolis' 50,000 buses are in bad shape.

"We will immediately impound the offending vehicles," Fernando stressed, adding that the MMDA also has the power to suspend and revoke the franchises of recalcitrant operators.

Fernando said telltale signs of dilapidated vehicles included smoke-belching, defective doors and windows, and paint that has peeled off.

The agency had fined operators for failing to repair defective doors, broken center bolts, misaligned bodies, broken windows and damaged windshields of their buses.

Fernando stressed that transport operators who refuse to fix or get rid of their dilapidated vehicles would have to face suspension and eventual cancellation of their franchise.

QC prosecutor orders filing of graft case vs fire exec

By Tina G. Santos

THE QUEZON City Prosecutor's Office has recommended the filing of charges against a fire official for allegedly Issuing a fire safety inspection certificate (FSIC) to a condominium building even before it was completed.

Charged with 14 counts of usurpation of authority and violation of Republic Act 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, was Insp. Virgilio Acabal, chief of the Fire Safety Enforcement Unit of Quezon City Fire Station 1.

Prosecution Officer II Rey Camilo Dumlao II recommended the filing of charges against Acabal after finding probable cause to indict him for graft.

Complainant Edwin Mejia, then the overall supervisor of the Fire Safety Enforcement Unit, claimed that he was ordered by city fire marshal Chief Insp. Oscar Villegas to inspect the Greenhills Garden Square on Boni Serrano Avenue.

Mejia discovered that Acabal already issued to the condominium an FSIC dated March 27, 2003.

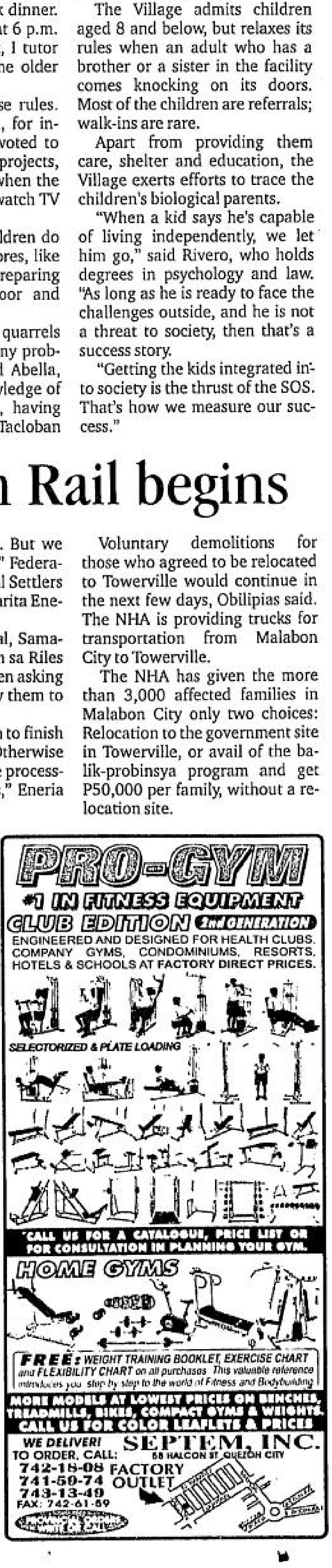
It was learned that Acabal also signed the certificate in behalf of Villegas even before the building was completed.

According to Mejia, Acabal also failed to evaluate and determine the correct amount to be paid by the owners of the building.

In his counter-affidavit, Acabal denied the allegations against him, saying the complainant was not included in the official list of all fire inspectors under the Fire Safety unit chief's supervision.

He added that the building was inspected and found to have complied with the requirements that compelled him to recommend the issuance of the FSIC.

But in his resolution, Dumlao explained that the act of Acabal signing the FSIC in behalf of the QC fire marshal without authority to do so constituted usurpation of authority or official functions.



PRO-GYM
#1 IN FITNESS EQUIPMENT
CLUB EDITION 2nd GENERATION
ENGINEERED AND DESIGNED FOR HEALTH CLUBS. COMPANY GYMS, CONDOMINIUMS, RESORTS, HOTELS & SCHOOLS AT FACTORY DIRECT PRICES.
SELECTORIZED & PLATE LOADING
CALL US FOR A CATALOGUE, PRICE LIST OR FOR CONSULTATION IN PLANNING YOUR GYM.
HOME GYMS
FREE: WEIGHT TRAINING BOOKLET, EXERCISE CHART and FLEXIBILITY CHART on all purchases. This valuable reference introduces you step by step to the world of Fitness and Bodybuilding
MORE MODELS AT LOWEST PRICES ON BENCHES, TREADMILLS, BIKES, COMPACT GYMS & WEIGHTS. CALL US FOR COLOR LEAFLETS & PRICES
WE DELIVER! TO ORDER, CALL:
742-18-08
741-59-74
743-13-49
FAX: 742-61-59
SEPTEM, INC.
58 HALCON ST. QUEZON CITY
FACTORY OUTLET

PLDT

Sangkatutak Na Saya No.4

I-connect Ang Buong Barangay! Ikabit Ang Buong Kapitbahay!
Dahil May Goldmine Ka Sa Saya At Cash Credits!

Up To ₱4 Million To Be Won!

PLDT
P/T
REDIAL
FLASH
1
ABC 2
DEF 3
GHI 4
JKL 5
MNO 6
PQRS 7
TUV 8
WXYZ 9
*
0
#

PLDT

"Landline Mo, Goldmine Ko!"

IBA PA RIN ANG MAY LANDLINE!

PLDT

GO TO YOUR NEAREST PLDT BUSINESS CENTER TO REGISTER AS AN AGENT.

Abangan!

Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

How to Goldmine Your Landline:

1. Promo is open to all current and new residential PLDT postpaid and Telesulit subscribers nationwide.

2. To join, subscriber must register and enrol at any PLDT Business Office to become an official Goldmine Agent.

3. For every approved and installed telephone subscription that is credited to his account, the Goldmine Agent recieves the following:

GOLDMINE AGENT
Post-paid Subscriber
For Every Post-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Free P300 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf
For Every Pre-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Free P150 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf

GOLDMINE AGENT
Telesulit Subscriber
For Every Post-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Free P300 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line
For Every Pre-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Free P150 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line

Note: *Credits/loads will automatically be credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent and will expire after one (1) month. Unused credits/loads will not be carried over to the succeeding month.*

4. To qualify for the cash prizes at the end of the promo period, Goldmine Agents should have at least fifty (50) approved and installed subscriptions. All qualified Goldmine Agents will be ranked according to the most number of approved applications and awarded the following:

Category and Cash Prize (in PhP)

Platinum Category:
Top 5 / Php 300,000
Diamond Category:
Top 6-15 / Php 150,000
Gold Category:
Top 16 – 25 / Php 75,000
Ruby Category:
Top 26 – 35 / Php 50,000
Silver Category:
Top 36 – 45 / Php 20,000
Bronze Category:
Top 46 – 55 / Php 10,000
Pearl Category:
Top 56 – 65 / Php 5,000

5. Promo period is from January 10, 2005 to May 10, 2005. Deadline for submission of referrals with complete required documents is on May 10, 2005, 5:00pm.

6. Successful new applications credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent are non-transferable.

7. The Goldmine Agent is not an employee of PLDT. He is not authorized to collect money or any other monetary form from the telephone applicants.

8. All existing promos at the time of the application shall apply to the applicant. PLDT will confirm availability of every line application by mailing an official notice to the subscriber. PLDT will install the line within five (5) days from receipt of payment. All subscriptions are covered by an 18-month contract or lock-in period. Pre-termination rates of P2,500 apply.

9. Standard policies of PLDT on Credit and Collection shall apply. PLDT reserves the right to disqualify any Goldmine Agent from the Program if any violation is committed on existing policies on subscription, credit and collection and/or commit acts of fraud.

See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3165, Series of 2004.

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA–Ohio State vs Wisconsin; 8 a.m.; ESPN–The Buckeyes and Badgers clash in a Big Ten battle.

POOL: World Pool League; 8:30 p.m. (r); ESPN–Check out the replay of the semifinal battle between Alex Pagulayan and Niels Feijen.

TENNIS: 2000 Australian Open Highlights; 9 p.m.; Star Sports–Take a look back at the best moments from Melbourne Park.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

THINNING HAIR?
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)

Pacquiao gets dream fight versus legendary Morales

FUERZA JUANENSE

MORALES replaces Marquez AFP

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—Manny Pacquiao returned here Saturday night stunned by thunderstorms and distressing winter chill but he woke up yesterday to a thrilling hot package of rewards after promoters decided to give him the legendary Erik Morales as new opponent.

If his original Feb. 26 fight had not been scrapped, the late-coming Pacquiao would've had to cram against the crafty, well-prepared Juan Manuel Marquez, holder of the WBA/IBF featherweight crowns.

After promoters, led by HBO, had shoved off Marquez over purse problems, Pacquiao now has more than enough time to hit perfect form for his March 19 fight against Morales.

Of course, the greater bonanza could come in the form of enormous dollar earnings following the inevitable elevation of the Pacquiao-Morales macho match-up to pay-for-view status.

The cut from the pay-per-view appearance could rake in for Pacquiao a record percentage in dollar earnings that promises to be the biggest by any boxer from the Orient.

PACQUIAO (left) with trainer Buboy Fernandez at the door of his "lucky quarters," Room 120 of Vagabond Inn.

But these sudden rewards were not the reason why Pacquiao has declared that his scheduled meeting with Morales would be a fulfillment of a dream.

"*Iyan talaga ang pangarap ko, matapos ko talunin si* (Marco Antonio) Barrera (I had dreamt of next fighting Morales after I beat Barrera), Pacquiao, in thick jacket and wearing leather winter gloves, told the INQUIRER outside his room at the Vagabond Inn in Hollywood.

The Ring Magazine featherweight boxing champ, stalled by booking problems in Manila, hit town Saturday raring to start a six-week rigid training for Marquez under Freddie Roach who had instructed him to come right after Christmas Day.

Arriving to his first winter in California, which has been reeling and shivering under the most extraordinary wet-and-cold conditions in nearly two decades, Pacquiao, 26, spent the whole day curled up in bed after hearing Mass on Sunday.

As he had vowed, he tried to start road training yesterday but had to instead ride the treadmill and do skipping rope exercises after being driven indoors by the sharp bite

PACQUIAO / A22

PATENTED
FOR ADVENTURE.
SHARK ACCESSORIES
SHARK CADDY MATE
SHARK ROOF CADDY
ABSOLUTELY NO-HOLES BORED INSTALLATION!
SHARK TITANIUM STEPBOARD
SHARK STAINLESS STEPTUBE
SHARK REAR STEPGEAR
SURESTEP

Smart-RP Ladies Open under way

THE "WAR of the Teenagers" for the Smart Philippine Ladies Amateur Open golf championship is on.

A youth brigade from all over Asia takes a special focus as the championship tees off at the plush Manila Golf Club inside Forbes Park in Makati today with last year's winner Frances Bondad going for a repeat.

A two-week practice at Manila Golf should be enough for the 17-year-old Australia-based Bondad to ease the pressure in the next three days.

Bondad faces a horde of homegrown teeners, led by national team standout Jayvie Agojo, who are all dreaming to follow in the footsteps of the star who hit yesterday's ceremonial drive, LPGA Tour campaigner Jennifer Rosales.

The field includes top-flight Thais, Singaporeans and Koreans as well as low-handicap players from Malaysia, Australia, Hong Kong and the United States.

Anything around par is seen by pundits as good enough to put anyone from among the 75 starters in contention for the crown.

Many contenders believe that a good short game on a course that is not too long like Manila Golf is a definite advantage.

"You really need to know the greens well like the landing spots, the speed especially," said Agojo, who is polishing her game before joining Pepperdine University in August.

Rosales was joined in the brief ceremonials by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo; Judge Cesar Cruz, president of the host Manila Golf Club; National Golf Association of the Philippines president Benny Gopez and Women's Golf Asociation of the Philippines president Nancy Ortiga.

LPGA star Jennifer Rosales hits the ceremonial drive as First Gentleman Mike Arroyo (left) and NGAP president Benny Gopez look on. ROMY HOMILLADA

SEAG equipment delay seen

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE MONEY is forthcoming, but the equipment—one of the most vital components for the success of Filipino athletes in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games—may be delayed.

A member of the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee sounded this alarm yesterday saying the equipment to be used during the Games, slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, must arrive at least six months before the event so the athletes can use them in training.

Costing a total of about P200 million, the equipment are to be shipped in from abroad. They will be used in sports such as athletics, shooting, canoe-kayak, rowing, traditional boat race, football and swimming.

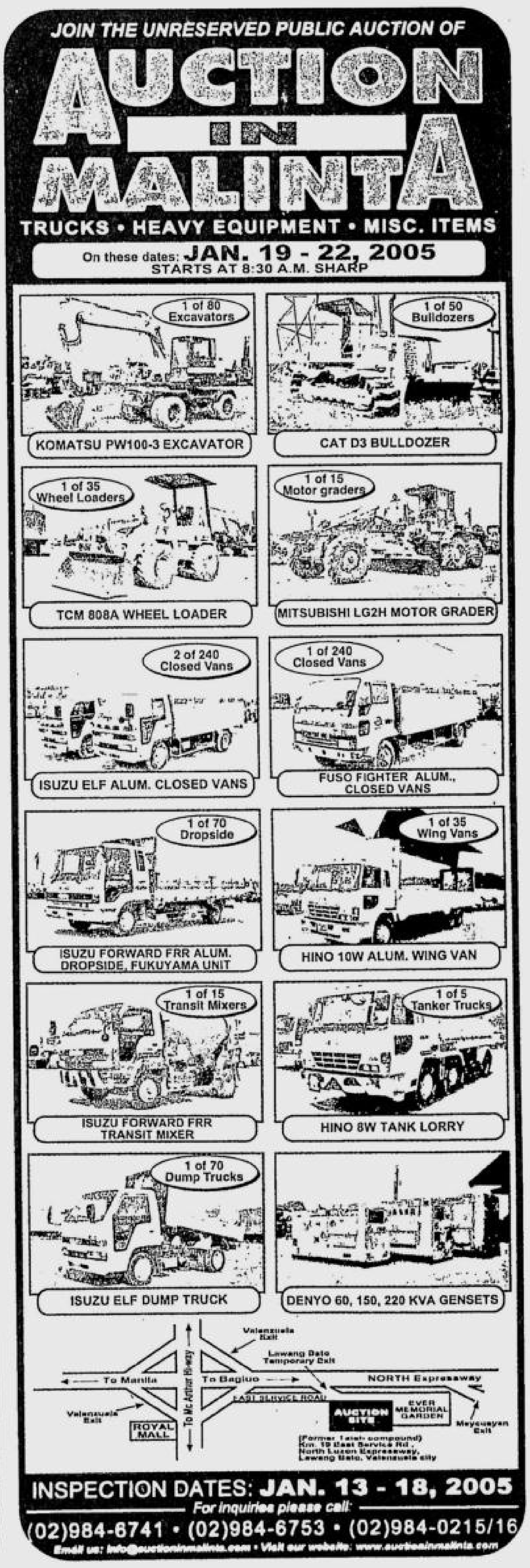
The last time the country purchased a new set of equipment for athletics was in 1991 when the Philippines hosted its second SEA Games.

"Ideally, the equipment must be ready at least six months before the Games so our athletes can get used to them," said the source who said shipping the sporting equipment might take time.

The Philippine Sports Commission handles the importation of equipment and the athletes' training.

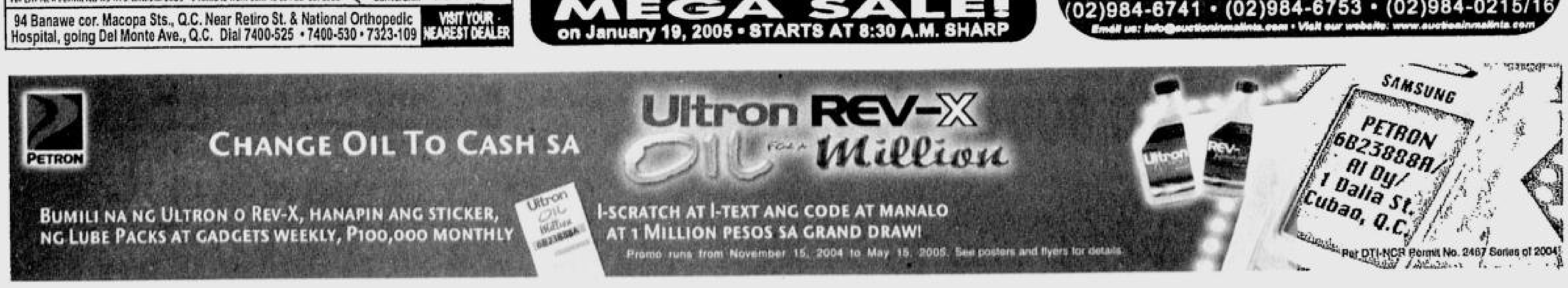
Philsoc officials, however, assured that the country is still ahead of schedule.

CENTRO
MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
PASSENGER VAN BODY
The only ISO 9001:2000 Certified Truck Body Builder in the Philippines.
REFRIGERATED VAN BODY
ALUMINUM VAN BODY
Available for
ISUZU (ELF) NKR/ NHR MITSUBISHI CANTER, KIA K2700 and other brands.
Call us at: Tel: 930-0971, 939-3710


JOIN THE UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION IN MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS
On these dates: JAN. 19 - 22, 2005
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
1 of 80 Excavators — KOMATSU PW100-3 EXCAVATOR
1 of 50 Bulldozers — CAT D3 BULLDOZER
1 of 35 Wheel Loaders — TCM 808A WHEEL LOADER
1 of 15 Motor graders — MITSUBISHI LG2H MOTOR GRADER
2 of 240 Closed Vans — ISUZU ELF ALUM. CLOSED VANS
1 of 240 Closed Vans — FUSO FIGHTER ALUM., CLOSED VANS
1 of 70 Dropside — ISUZU FORWARD FRR ALUM. DROPSIDE, FUKUYAMA UNIT
1 of 35 Wing Vans — HINO 10W ALUM. WING VAN
1 of 15 Transit Mixers — ISUZU FORWARD FRR TRANSIT MIXER
1 of 5 Tanker Trucks — HINO 8W TANK LORRY
1 of 70 Dump Trucks — ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK
DENYO 60, 150, 220 KVA GENSETS
INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 13 - 18, 2005
For inquiries please call:
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16
Valenzuela Exit
Lawang Bato Temporary Exit
To Manila
To Baguio
NORTH Expressway
EAST SERVICE ROAD
To Mc Arthur H-way
Valenzuela Exit
ROYAL MALL
AUCTION SITE
EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN
Meycauayan Exit
(Former Tatak compound) Km. 19 East Service Rd., North Luzon Expressway, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela city

CARRYBOY®
"All The Way!"
PACKAGE 1 ROLLBAR SERIES
CB-706 Ellipse Tube Aluminum Roll Bar with 3rd brakelight
CB-920 Bedliner with optional chromed hook & tie
CB-721 Front Bumper Guard Cover (Overrider) ALL-NEW
CB-982 Large Hood Deflector OR CB-701 Door Visor w/ Black Metal Clip
PACKAGE 2 ROLLER-UP SERIES
CB-706 Ellipse Tube Aluminum Roll Bar with 3rd brakelight
CB-920 Bedliner with optional chromed hook & tie
CB-RUP Roller-Up
PACKAGE 3 CANOPY SERIES
Buy any of the 3 CANOPY models & Aluminum Roof Basket (CB-535):
CB Series 5 Sporty (Most Popular)
CB Series 8 ALL-NEW (Multi-Purpose)
NEW LIFT-1
FREE! CB-729 COOLER/ WARMER worth P6,800
AC 220V DC 12V Conversion
The ALL-New Toyota HILUX
Promo is from Jan. 12 to Feb 28, 2005
94 Banawe cor. Macopa Sts., Q.C. Near Retiro St. & National Orthopedic Hospital, going Del Monte Ave., Q.C. Dial 7400-525 • 7400-530 • 7323-109
VISIT YOUR NEAREST DEALER

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on January 19, 2005 • STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP


PETRON
CHANGE OIL TO CASH SA
Ultron REV-X OIL FOR A Million
BUMILI NA NG ULTRON O REV-X, HANAPIN ANG STICKER, NG LUBE PACKS AT GADGETS WEEKLY, P100,000 MONTHLY
I-SCRATCH AT I-TEXT ANG CODE AT MANALO AT 1 MILLION PESOS SA GRAND DRAW!
Promo runs from November 15, 2004 to May 15, 2005. See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2467 Series of 2004

Turbochargers, Aces in q'finals

By June Navarro

AFTER five frustrating conferences, Shell is finally in the quarterfinals.

The Turbochargers avenged a mind-boggling playoff defeat against the Red Bull Barako last conference with a runaway 98-77 win last night to advance to the quarterfinals of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Coach Leo Austria and the Turbochargers came close to the quarterfinals in the Fiesta Conference but they blew a 25-point lead in the fourth quarter and lost to the Barako in their playoff match.

Rich Alvarez made sure there wouldn't be another collapse this time as this year's top rookie pick hit 11 of his 20 points in a second-quarter Shell breakaway that ripped the game wide open.

"I kept on reminding them about that debacle even when we're already up by 24 points with still five minutes remaining," said Austria.

The Turbochargers made the quarterfinals for the first time since the 2002 Commissioner's Cup when they lost to the Barako in the playoffs.

Chris Jackson reached a milestone by becoming the fifth player in league history to compile 2,000 defensive rebounds, 1,000 offensive boards and 500 steals.

In the second game, Alaska weathered a strong third-quarter charge by FedEx for a 96-93 victory.

The Aces also advanced to the quarterfinals, eliminating the Express in the process.

The scores:

First game

SHELL 98—Alvarez 20, Calaguio 17, Dela Cruz 16, Mamaril 13, Ferreria 9, Yap 8, Jackson 6, Bajar 5, Cruz 4, Sotto 0, Sta. Maria 0.

RED BULL 77—Villanueva 21, Tugade 18, Asaytono 8, Valenzuela 6, Rodriguez 4, Bernardo 4, Torion 4, Lopez 3, Meneses 3, Robinson 2, Baguio 2, David 2.

Quarters: 29-18, 56-42, 72-56, 98-77

Second Game

ALASKA 96—Hugnatan 24, Carlaso 19, Cortez 17, Cablay 16, Thoss 8, Hawkins 6, Allado 6, Duat 0.

FEDEX 93—Ritualo 27, Ferriols 16, De Ocampo 14, Gonzales 11, Codiñera 11, Pingris 7, Arboleda 4, Se 2, Sison 1, Billones 0.

Quarters: 29-25, 57-48, 71-76, 96-93

BILLY Mamaril of Shell (right) and Enrico Villanueva of Red Bull Barako contest a rebound. RUDY ESPERAS

Pacquiao gets dream fight . . .

From page A21

of morning winter rain.

He later had a happy reunion with Roach for the regular 1 p.m. regimen at the gym where he punched the mitts and worked with the speed ball.

"He was short of breath, but that was expected," said Roach who added time was not on their side. "There was the usual rust, but he looked fine and ready for the hard grind."

Roach said Morales coming up as new adversary was a welcome change.

"He's beatable," Roach said of Morales.

There was no word on whether or not Morales, who lost a close, controversial third fight against Barrera in November, has been in serious training before the new card, a sure hit with Hispanic communities here, was announced.

A press conference to formally announce the Pacquiao-Morales fight has been scheduled at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel here Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

Pacquiao, informed of the change in foes yesterday, said Morales does not promise to be an easier foe than Marquez.

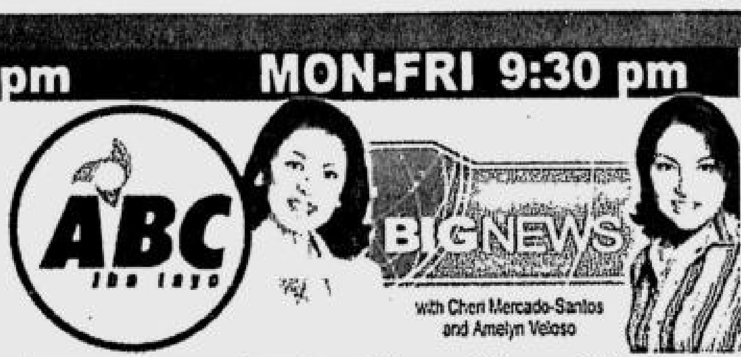
But Pacquiao appeared both happy and convinced he could give the finest performance of his career in his dream bout against Morales, who could be more engaging but definitely not as crafty and complicated as Marquez.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Wednesday, January 12, 2005

WEDNESDAYS 10:00 pm

LOOK WHO'S TALKING
with Johnny Litton, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Anton San Diego

MON-FRI 9:30 pm

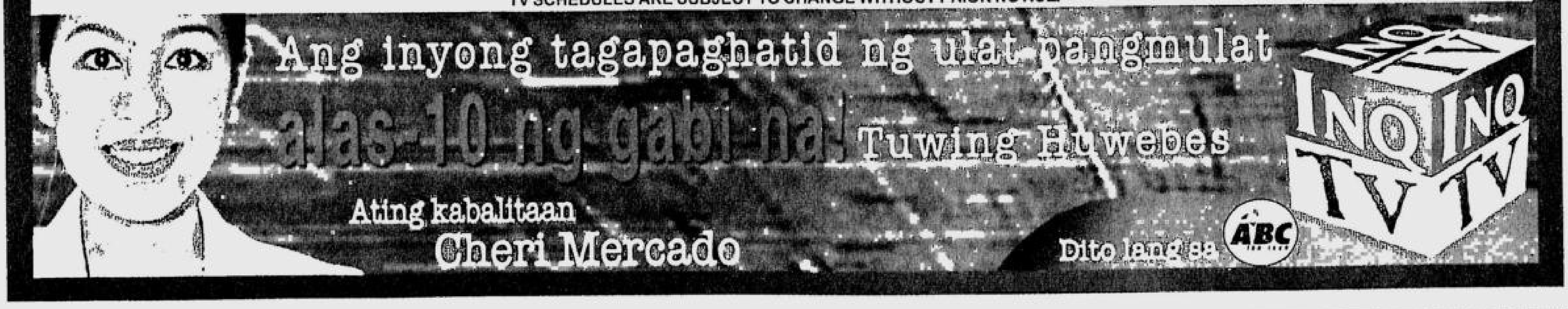


ABC Iba Tayo
BIG NEWS
with Cheri Mercado-Santos and Amelyn Veloso

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Yes Yes Show			Insider	Special Assignment
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Talk Ko 'To		Linya		Teledyaryo		Musconi Cup 2003				MMDA On The Road	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Look Who's Talking		Phil Badminton Tournaments	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM)		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Scrubs	Everwood		Ally McBeal				Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		Japan Video Topic		EZ Shop		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV		Linawin Natin		D.E.N.R.		Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
Solar		Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Fantastic Four	Static Shock	Godzilla	Incredible Hulk	Invisible Man		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix		100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd				Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Knock First	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Good Morning Miami			Meet My Folks		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One		Talahib At Rosas				Bituing Walang Ningning				Ober Da Bakod The Movie			Persona	Ipagpatawad Mo (9:15 PM)				Ping Lacson Story	
Studio 23								Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Mr. Bean	C.S.I.	Angel			News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Yes Dear
AXN		Fear Factor		Alias		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	7 Days		The Amazing Race		CSI: Miami		Fear Factor		Alias	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares/ American Idol	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed/ American Idol 4 2hr Special		Philly		Third Watch		Friends	Ed
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Passport	Sunset Boulevard Of Dreams	Taboo		Extreme Latitude	Young Global Hot Shots	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Passport		Taboo	
Solar Sports		ATP Heineken Open '04 SF2				Phil-9 Ball Open '04 Finals				Copenhagen Masters MD Final			NBA TV Daily	NBA Game: Indiana vs. Memphis					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Love Chain	You're Invited	Nigella Bites	Fine Living Special		New York Nick	Style Star
HBO	A Date With Darkness			Stealing Harvard (4:10 PM)			School Ties (5:35 PM)				Half Past Dead (7:20 PM)			Extreme Measures				The Foreigner (10:55PM)	
Star Movies			Wishcraft (3:45 PM)				Desperately Seeking Susan			Daredevil (7:15 PM)				Cave In			Target (A.K.A. Falcon)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		Motorsport Asia	2004 Int'l. Chall of Champs Unc. CT USA World Pool Masters '04 Ann Zee, Holland Premier Snooker League '04 Cntry Durham UK				Goals!	Sportscenter Taiwan	World Pool League '04 Warsaw, Poland		Premier Snooker League '04 Cardiff Wales				Sportscenter Asia				
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Un-talkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			Fire Down Below (3:45 PM)				Internal Affairs				Deadly Swarm			Free Willy 3 The Rescue			John Carpenter Presents Vampires Los Muertos		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	David Copperfield				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Mysterious Ways		Change		Robin Cook's Acceptable Risk			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Ways
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Nefertiti Revealed				Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Hour Asia	
MTV Philippines		MTV Diyes		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits	05 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Rockd	Whatever Things	TRL		Room Raiders	One Bad Trip	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus			FED Cup SFinal France vs Spain							NBA Miami vs. Phoenix					Inside the PGA	WTA L.A. Williams vs Dementieva			
EWTN	Council Of Faith	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	The Donut Man	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Saints For The Third Millenium	The Virtues	EWTN Gallery	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Pope Pius XII	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Our Father's Plan	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

2005 Salvo!

NEW NISSAN 1.6 GSX MT/AT
P 65,000 DP

NEW NISSAN 1.6 GS
P 70,000 DP

CEFIRO CLASSIC
P100,000 DP
CEFIRO 300 P1,450,000
30% DP / 18 MOS. / 0% INTEREST
3 LITER ENGINE AT 220 HP

MODEL	SRP	DOWNPAYMENT	TERMS	
			36	48
1.6 GSX MT	699,000	65,000	21,834	17,465
1.6 GS AT	779,000	70,000	24,333	19,464
CEF. CLASSIC	1,190,000	100,000	37,171	29,732

FREE
INSURANCE and
CHATTEL MORTGAGE FEE

PROMO PERIOD: JAN. 10 - JAN. 31, 2005

SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0113, Series of 2005

Mantrade Development Corp.
Makati: Tels: 843-3316 to 23 / Fax: 817-8257
DL: 812-7701 / 7743 / 7752 • Manila: Tels.: 252-3566
251-9060 to 63 • 251-9056

Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue / Ortigas
Tels.: 731-5308 • 711-6486 Fax: 740-3066 Tel.: 635-5888 / Fax: 633-2543

Nissan Commonwealth
Tels.: 932-0428 • 932-4001 / Fax: 931-6087

Nissan UN Avenue Manila
Tels.: 400-1020 • 400-2177 • 400-1522 • 404-2439

Nissan North EDSA Balintawak
Tels.: 330-5331 • 361-9995 / DL.: 455-8980

Nissan West Gate / Southwoods
Tels.: 772-1826 to 30 Tels.: 699-2400 • 843-1804
DL: 775-0239 • Fax: 772-1877 (046) 430-1683 • (049) 241-3040

NISSAN

Paintmasters clinch twice-to-beat edge

By Jasmine W. Payo

WELCOAT Paints overcame a rough start and leaned on Chester Tolomia in an 81-70 victory over skidding Air Philippines at the Pasig Sports Center yesterday, giving the Paintmasters a twice-to-beat incentive in the PBL Open Championship.

Tolomia, scoreless in his two previous games, fired 22 points as Welcoat rose to 7-6 and clinched a crucial playoff edge, along with idle Granny Goose.

The Paintmasters' victory, however, was nearly lost in the shadows of yet another improbable feat pulled off by AMP-Ateneo.

Five days after routing the powerhouse Paintmasters, the Eagles stunned league leader Montaña Pawnshop, 78-72, in overtime to keep their quarterfinal bid alive.

"Everybody worked hard because LA Tenorio was sick," said coach Sandy Arespacochaga after halting the Jewels' five-game winning streak.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Air Phils.
4 p.m.—AMP-Ateneo vs Toyota Otis-Letran

Emerson Oreta topscored with 16 points, but it was the duo of Magnum Membrere and JC Intal who fueled the Eagles' late charge.

The win propelled AMP-Ateneo into a tie with ICTSI-La Salle and Toyota Otis-Letran at 5-8.

The scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 81—Tolomia 22, Reyes 13, Washington 12, Tan 8, Gamboa 7, Coching 6, Ortiguerra 5, Sta. Maria 5, Dy 2, Najorda 1, Estrada 0.

AIR PHILIPPINES 70—Epondulan 18, Aljamal 14, Holper 14, Hubalde 6, Te 6, Pua 6, Paterno 4, Vizcarra 2, Joe 0.

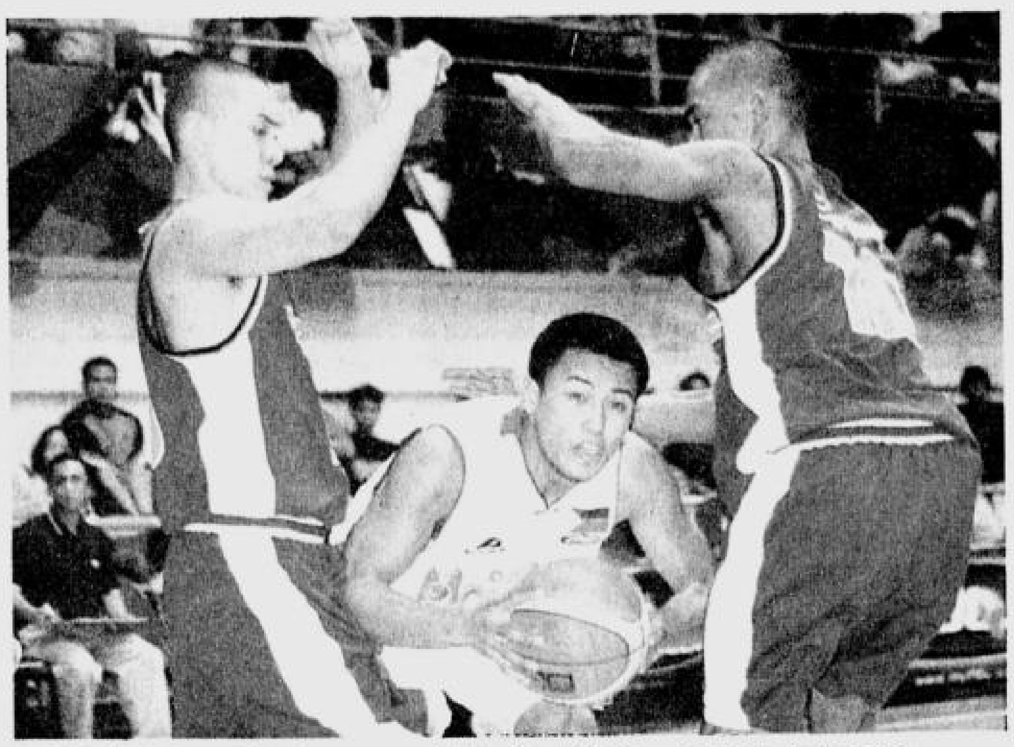
Quarters: 17-27, 38-42, 59-60, 81-70

Second Game

AMP-ATENEO 78—Oreta 16, Membrere 13, Gatumbato 11, Intal 10, Mesina 10, Mendoza 7, Allad 6, Castro 4, Bugia 1.

MONTAÑA 72—Salvador 18, Dela Cuesta 12, Baguion 8, Mercado 8, Capus 7, Magpayo 6, Guerrero 6, Vergara 5, Espiritu 2, Baluyot 0, Tolentino 0.

Quarters: 16-13, 30-27, 44-45, 65-65 (reg), 78-72 (OT)



MONTAÑA's Bryan Tolentino gets sandwiched by AMP-Ateneo's Gabby Espinas and Emerson Oreta in their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cebu hosts NBC pre-season

AFTER a big inaugural season last year, NBC begins its pre-season basketball series in Cebu by staging its first tournament on Jan. 19-22.

Four teams, led by inaugural champion Tribu Sugbu of businessman Lito Gillamae Jr., will compete in the short series sponsored by Sulpicio Lines, Panasonic, Molten, JY Square Discovery Mall and Holiday Plaza Hotel.

The other contenders are Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig, last year's losing finalist; the Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Springs of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, and the General Feed Masters, grand slam champion of the Cebu Basketball Federation which will be a guest team.

"We're starting early and we're definitely starting with a big bang," says Padilla, who is also the national pistol champion.

"We will have more pre-season tourneys after the Cebu series."

The Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu is confident of making it two in a row in the national championship. But Forward Taguig, which is still strong despite losing Ogie Gumatay to Sta. Lucia Realty in the PBA, and Laguna, now coached by former PBA player Vic "Rambo" Sanchez, are expected to make a strong bid for top honors.

Int'l jr meet blasts off at Wack Wack

ALL ROADS lead to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club when the eighth Samsung Philippine International Junior Championship comes off the wraps today.

A field of 120 golfers from Asia will answer the 8 a.m. tee-off time of the tournament, which has Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. again as the title sponsor.

"On behalf of the Philippine Junior Golf Federation, I would like to welcome all the participants, their parents and team officials," said PJGF president Edgardo "Boy" Cantada yesterday.

Cantada, who conceptualized and launched the event in 1998, also thanked Wack Wack president Ben Abalos for agreeing to host the event.

Aside from host Philippines, the other countries competing for team and individual honors are Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

Players from Metro Manila and the cities of Cebu, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro will carry the Philippine colors in the tournament ending Friday.

Cantada's son, Gerard, one of the country's leading professionals and once a leading junior star, is again assisting his father in the tournament.

Tigresses tear Lady Stags apart in 3 sets

GAMES TOMORROW
3 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Lyceum
5 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas came back from a streak-halting loss in a big way, displaying a solid game to crush San Sebastian in straight sets, 25-19, 25-11, 25-20, yesterday in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

The victory, the team's seventh in eight outings, put UST back on top just two days after seeing its six-game run snapped by De La Salle University.

Roxanne Pimentel came through with 18 points, including 15 on attacks, to help the Tigresses rebound from that 21-25, 21-25, 21-25 defeat to the Lady Archers.

La Salle now trails UST by half a game, a deficit the Lady Archers are expected to wipe out when they face the Far Eastern U belles tomorrow.

Letran enhanced its semifinal bid with a surprise 25-21, 25-19, 25-13 victory over Philippine Sports Commission in the other game, giving the Muralla-based spikers a share of fourth place with Lyceum.

It was PSC's third loss against five victories but the guest squad remained in third place behind UST and La Salle.

Rubie de Leon, Mary Jean Balse, Kate Co Yu Kang and Venus Bernal made 9 points each for the Tigresses.

SPORTSWATCH

Reyes lands 4th, pockets $3,000

EFREN "Bata" Reyes finish fourth and received $3,000 in the recent UPA Pro Tour Championships at the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens California, USA. The 50-year-old Reyes bowed to eventual winner Corey Deuel and third placer Gabe Owen, 7-6, both from the USA. The undefeated run of Deuel, including a 7-5 win over countryman Danny Basavich, gave him the top prize of $10,000. *Marlon Bernardino*

Isip, Carlos top executive chess

SENIOR analyst Frederick Isip of SSS and UP varsity coach NM Leo Carlos ruled the second MCC Executive Category 1 & 2 active chess tournaments held recently at the J&F Divino Bldg. in Quezon City. Isip amassed 4.5 points to grab the Category 1 title and pocket P5,000 courtesy of Ed Madrid, president and CEO of Primanila Plans Inc. Carlos finished at joint first in Category 2 with CLSU coach Jose Aquino Jr. with 4.5 points each, but Carlos bagged the title due to better tiebreak.

Martinez stuns German WGM

FILIPINO National Master Rolly Martinez stunned Woman Grandmaster Bettina Trabert of Germany to share the lead with two others after the fourth round of 2005 Verona Chess Festival in Verona, Italy. The Santiago, Isabela, native Martinez now has 3.5 points on three wins, one draw, the same output of GM Miroljub Lazic and IM Mihajlo Stojanovic of Yugoslavia. Martinez earlier defeated Paolo Capitelli and Fide Master Stefanno D' Innocente of Italy. He drew with Italy's Sabino Brunello. Martinez is eyeing his third and final IM result. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

PSC: Athletes' welfare over Games

THE WELFARE of the national athletes tops the list of the Philippine Sports Commission's priorities laid down yesterday by officer-in-charge William "Butch" Ramirez. Ramirez said other projects such as the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy and the Mindanao Friendship Games will be put on hold this year. The OIC emphasized the government sports agency's thrusts during a meeting with the heads of its various departments, divisions and sections.

Ulutan Fastest Kill Challenge

THE "NEW Year Superfights One-Cock Ulutan Fastest Kill Challenge" is set today at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten as sponsors. The event will start at 8 a.m., according to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P500,000 for an entry fee of P2,200. The fastest kill champion will drive home a brand-new owner-type jeep.

P1.1M center bets in GCAP tilt

BIG-TIME fights with bets reaching as high as P1.1 million are expected when the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7-Cock Derby championship round fires off tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. "Derby aficionados can expect quality and exciting fights from start to finish," said coliseum manager Alex Tobias. Negros Occidental's Dini Cuenca and Dante Hinlo (Dini and Dante), Raffy Yulo (That's It) and Jen-jen Arayata of Cavite (Agilahas) posted three wins each in the eliminations on Monday.

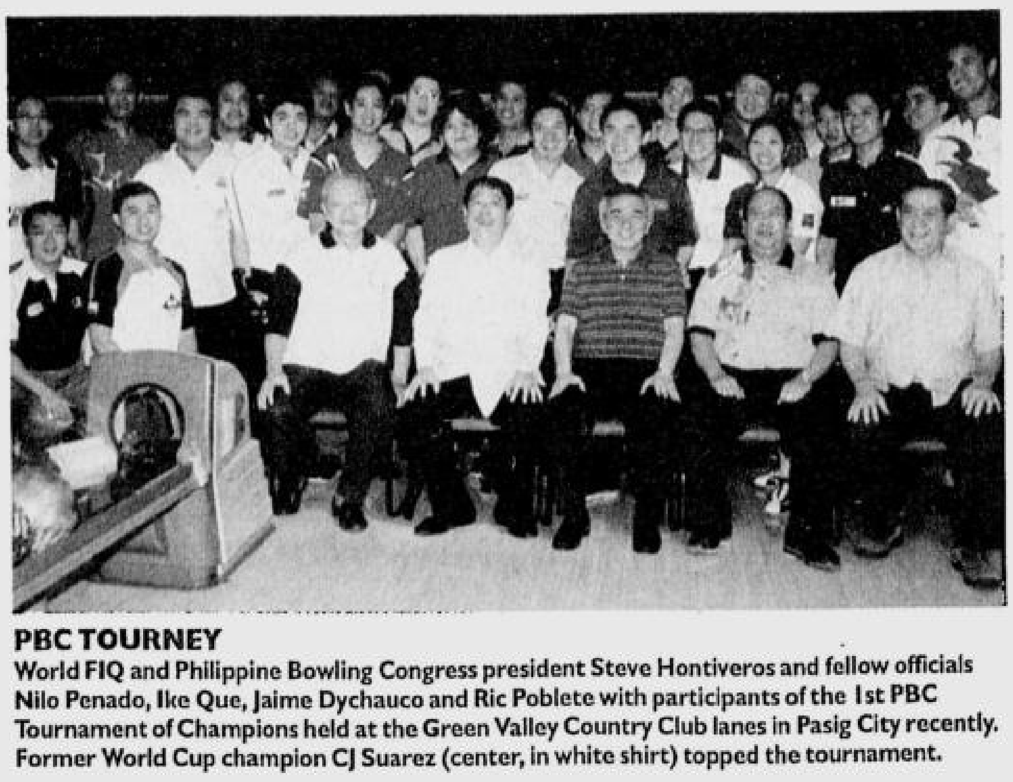
Filcoba 4-cock inaugural derby on

FORTY-FIVE member-participants of the newly formed Filipino Cockers & Breeders Association (Filcoba) unleash their finest feathered-fighters today as the Filcoba Season Opener 4-Cock Inaugural Derby takes place at the Roligon Mega Cockpit starting at 4 p.m. with 90 matches lined up. The roster includes Rep. Ompong Plaza , William Go, Peter Uren, lawyer Virgilo Manguerra, Jerry Ang/engineer Sarmiento, Danny Liao, Tiny Meneses, Albert Dechavez, Tito Reyes, Riyoichi Saito, Lito Alcantara/Boy Valenzuela, Dante Eslabon, Mauro Prieto and Pep Goitia.

RAFFLE WINNER: Antonio Sy (second from left) bagged two major raffle prizes—one week Royal Caribbean Cruise and Northwest Airlines world business-class tickets for two—during the awards night of the Chairman's Cup at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. Awarding him the prizes are (from left)) club chair Robert John Sobrepeña, Northwest Airlines general manager Ray Nishihira and Royal Caribbean Inc.'s Wally Cervantes.

RACING TIPS
AT SLLP BY MR . 999

Race 1—1. Western Dancer 2. Mr Bonjing 3. Homerun King 4. Power of Longevity
Race 2—1. Refreshing 2. Snow Princess 3. Napa Valley 4. Power of the Wind 5. Patago
Race 3—1. Run Like D Wind 2. Do It David 3. Mika Mix 4. Penthouse
Race 4—1. Nico's In Charge 2. Gonfalon Story 3. Glory Belle 4. Cadon Dance 5. Extreme Magic 6. Fighter/Special Lad
Race 5—1. Money for Shelltox 2. Canta Libre 3. Stratosphere
Race 6—1. Golden Harry 2. Vice Free 3. Speed Admiral 4. Ocean Cookie 5. Milted Forever
Race 7—1. Heroics/Cebuana Spell 2. Puppy Dog Tail 3. Royal Lantana 4. Sacred Hall
Race 8—1. Nitty Gritty 2. Jodi 3. Flying Machine 4. Speedster 5. Technic 6. Uncle Buck



PBC TOURNEY
World FIQ and Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros and fellow officials Nilo Penado, Ike Que, Jaime Dychauco and Ric Poblete with participants of the 1st PBC Tournament of Champions held at the Green Valley Country Club lanes in Pasig City recently. Former World Cup champion CJ Suarez (center, in white shirt) topped the tournament.

RGFFP cancels tourney

THE ROTARY Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) has decided to postpone indefinitely the national championship slated Jan. 19-22 in Baguio City due to the spread of meningococcemia. For inquiries, call Pauline Sevilla (0920-9199000) or Leah Gruba (0920-9087635, 7212667) or e-mail rfffp1987@yahoo.com.

the Golfshop at baron travel
New Year Golf Specials!
Kuala Lumpur $679.00 only 4DAYS/3NIGHTS
Mission Hills $718.00 only 4DAYS/3NIGHTS
Bintan, Indonesia $548.00 only 4DAYS/3NIGHTS
Packages Inclusions:
Airfare, hotel accommodation (with breakfast),
golf rounds (green fee and caddy fee included), airport transfers.
Bangkok $485.00 only 4DAYS/3NIGHTS
Spring City $777.00 only 4DAYS/3NIGHTS
Other Golf Packages also available.
HURRY CALL NOW!
Operated by:
the baron travel corporation
For booking and inquiries, please call:
Tel. no. 8174926 loc. 210 or 202 and look for Rocky or email us: thegolfshop@barontravel.com.ph

WORLD POKER TOUR
Poker tests a person's nerves and how he handles pressure. It is not only luck but a mix of skill, psychology and strategy. The World Poker Tour shows us that this game is a sport!
WPT
WORLD POKER TOUR
sportsplus
2 DAYS TO GO!
WPT BELLAGIO

Lakers rally past slumping Wolves

MINNEAPOLIS—Kobe Bryant poured in a game-high 31 points to spark the Los Angeles Lakers to a 105-96 win over Minnesota Monday, sending the slumping Timberwolves to their sixth loss in seven outings.

Chucky Atkins added 23 points while Chris Mihm notched 14 points and 17 rebounds as the Lakers rallied from a 76-67 third-quarter deficit with a 24-7 run in the fourth to post their fourth victory in six games.

The host Timberwolves received another superb effort from NBA MVP Kevin Garnett, who had 23 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists. Sam Cassell, however, missed his second consecutive game with a strained hamstring.

In Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur seized 23 points, including a game-winning shot at the buzzer, as the Utah Jazz broke out of their worst losing streak for more than 20 years with an upset 97-96 triumph over the San Antonio Spurs.

Mired in a nine-game skid, the Jazz were given little chance against the Spurs, a team they had not beaten in 18 meetings stretching back to February 2000.

Winners of 12 of their last 14 games, the Spurs were handed 24 points and 13 rebounds by Tim Duncan but still suffered their eighth loss of the season.

In Boston, the Celtics received double-figure contributions from eight players, led by an 18-point effort by Paul Pierce, to halt a two-game losing skid with a 119-101 victory over the Orlando Magic.

Tony Allen had 16 points while Raef LaFrentz, Ricky Davis and Gary Payton each added 15 points to the cause as the Celtics made sure the Magic stumbled to their seventh straight road defeat.

The Magic, who have allowed a league-high 100 points per game, made a move earlier in the day to bolster their defense by trading third-highest scorer Cuttino Mobley to the Sacramento Kings for guard Doug Christie.

Mobley, 29, had been a backcourt mate of Steve Francis since entering the National Basketball Association in 1998. He was a second-round pick of Houston and immediately paired with Francis, the second overall pick acquired in a trade with Vancouver.

Both Mobley and Francis were traded last summer to Orlando in the deal that sent NBA scoring champion Tracy McGrady to Houston.

In Philadelphia, Nick Van Exel totaled a season-high 28 points, including a team record eight three-pointers, as the Portland Trail Blazers won for the first time in five games with a 109-100 victory over the 76ers.

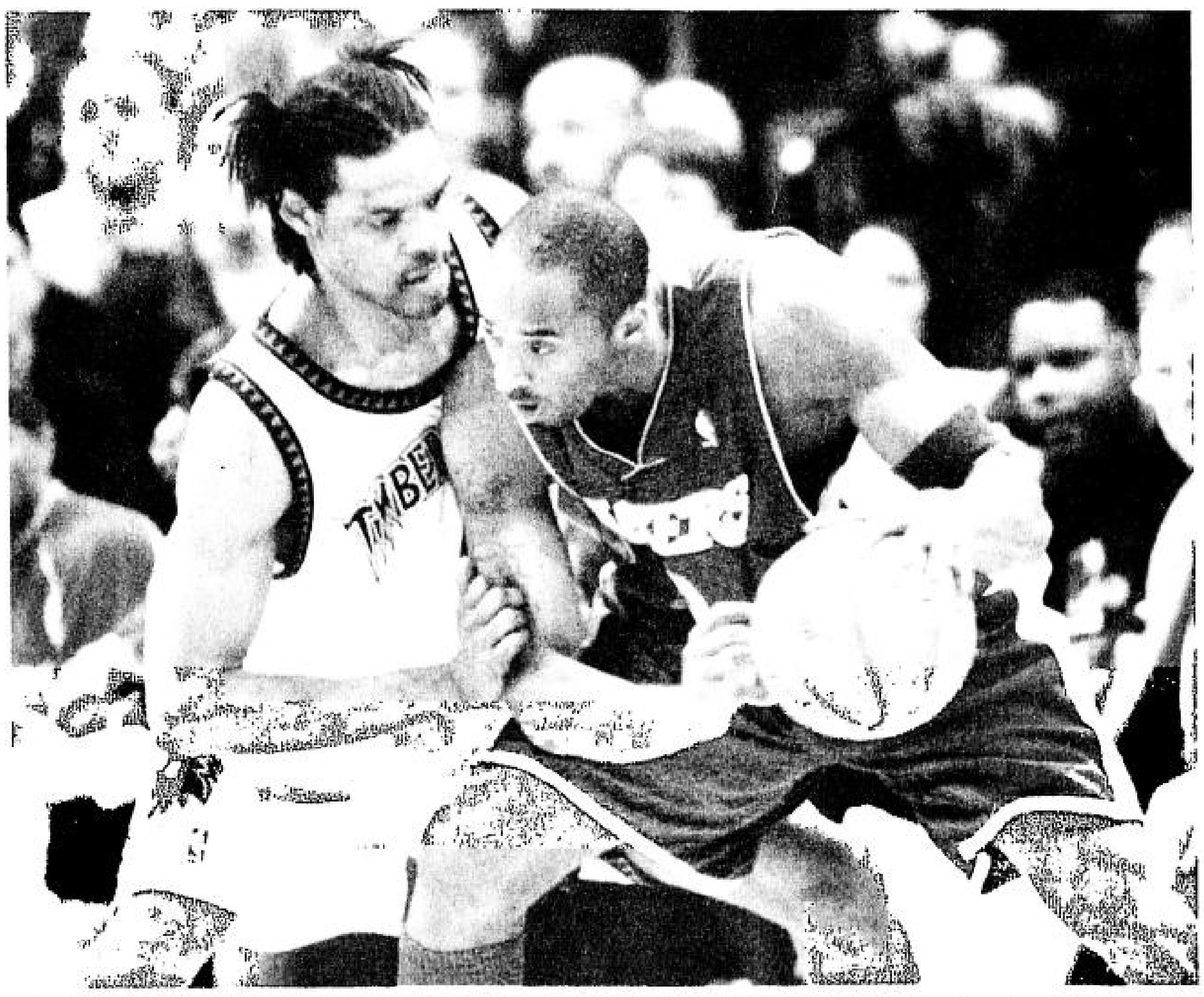
Damon Stoudamire added 22 points for Portland and Zach Randolph 18.

After missing one game with assorted injuries, Allen Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, was back in action with 21 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the 76ers.

In Chicago, Othella Harrington grabbed 20 points and Kirk Hinrich added 14 points, nine assists and six rebounds to help the Bulls beat the Golden State Warriors, 94-85.

After opening the season 0-9, the Bulls have won 10 of their last 13, including four in a row.

The Warriors have gone in the opposite direction, losing six games in succession since top scorer Jason Richardson sprained his ankle. *Reuters*



LOS ANGELES Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (right) feels out the defense of Minnesota Timberwolves guard Latrell Sprewell during the second half of their NBA game in the Target Center in Minneapolis. REUTERS

Stoudemire, speedy Suns face 'biggest' test

PHOENIX—Amare Stoudemire was a reluctant center when the season began. Shaquille O'Neal is liable to remind him why.

Still, Stoudemire and the remarkable Phoenix Suns say they are up for the challenge when O'Neal and the Miami Heat make their only visit to the desert on Tuesday in a matchup of the best records in the East and West.

"Yeah, I got Shaq tomorrow night," Stoudemire said with a big smile after the Suns practice on Monday. "It's going to be a pretty good test for me, but I think I can hold him."

The game is a classic matchup of power versus speed, and the streaking Suns, with the NBA's best record at 30-4 and riding a six-game winning streak, like their chances against the Heat (27-9) despite the obvious Miami size advantage with O'Neal inside.

"We're going to guard him and hope he doesn't kill somebody, and then we're going to run," Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It's pretty simple. There's not much you can do about that guy."

Stoudemire thought at the start of the season that he'd be playing center only occasionally, but it has worked so well—he is fourth in the NBA in scoring at 25.9 points per game—that he's firmly established in the middle every night.

Stoudemire idolized O'Neal while growing up in Florida. All that's in the past, now, Stoudemire said. Now it's business, and he figures O'Neal will have as many problems with him as it is the other way around.

"I can outrun him," Stoudemire said. "I can use my quickness at both ends, and use that to our advantage."

And when O'Neal dunks?

"We just have to take it out and beat him down the court and dunk back at him," Stoudemire said, "so it should be a pretty fun game."

Stoudemire is smaller than most NBA centers, and is dwarfed by O'Neal. But the Suns' strategy is the same as it was against any opponent: Wear the big guy out with a relentless, frenetic pace.

"He's going to be tired, but we'll see what happens," the Suns' Shawn Marion said. "Shaq is a big dude and we're going to try to run it out of him. If he ain't in shape, he'll be in shape now."

The Suns always help Stoudemire on defense, so they should be used to the double-team strategy they will have to employ on Tuesday.

"Obviously it's a mismatch for both guys," Suns floor leader Steve Nash said. "Amare's quicker than Shaq. He's going to cause him problems, and they'll probably have to help Shaq on Amare. But Shaq is the most dominant player there is in the game, so it's going to be a team effort."

While the Suns were pounding the Indiana Pacers, 124-89, on Sunday, the Heat were losing in Seattle, 108-98, succumbing to the Sonics' pick-and-roll. It's a play that Nash and Stoudemire have run to near-perfection while the Suns have won 17 of their last 18 games. *AP*

Epson joins PSA awards supporters

ONE OF the country's leading manufacturers of printers is joining the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) in honoring the top achievers of 2004 during its Annual Awards Night tomorrow at the Manila Pavilion.

Epson is giving out an all-in-one printer (scan/print/copy) to golfer Jennifer Rosales and Manny Pacquiao as its way of saluting the top female and male athletes chosen by the country's oldest media organization.

"Epson aims to support not just the Filipino artist but the Filipino athlete as well," says Randy Kanapi, marketing head of Epson Philippines.

"This is our small way of congratulating the best male and female athletes," he added.

The company will likewise be responsible for printing the large-format photos of both Pacquiao and Rosales as well as the gallery paying tribute to one of the PBA's best power forwards—Alvin Patrimonio—who recently hung his jersey after 17 years of playing in the pro league.

Pacquiao, Rosales and Patrimonio comprise the 65 athletes, officials and entities included in the 2004 honor roll drawn by the 90-member association.

Leading sports personalities are gracing the 90-minute affair led by Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the guest of honor and speaker in the rites sponsored by Red Bull, Supermax, Pagcor, San Miguel Beer, the Philippine Sports Commission, Accel and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza with NBN-4 as the official carrying station.

PSA president Jimmy Cantor of Malaya said awardees who will not get their invitations in advance are advised to get theirs at the reception area before the rites that begin at 8 p.m.

For details, call Cantor at 5277651, (0920) 9044199 or PSA treasurer Joe S. Antonio at 527-84-21.

Sultry singer Kyla will be the special guest performer of the affair to be hosted by amateur cage star Alex Compton of Montaña and Lala Roque.

Chinese qualifier shames Myskina

SYDNEY, Australia—Qualifier Peng Shuai of China upset second-seeded Anastasia Myskina of Russia, 6-1, 6-3, Tuesday in a second-round match at the Medibank Sydney International tennis tournament.

Myskina, the French Open champion and International Tennis Federation's 2004 player of the year, had complained after winning three matches at last week's Hopman Cup that she had been playing too much tennis ahead of the Australian Open.

She also questioned whether entering the Sydney event was a wise decision.

On Tuesday, she said her first outdoor match of the season—the Hopman Cup matches were played indoors—caused most of her problems.

"I've been practicing indoors because in Perth it was really windy," said Myskina.

Sixth-seeded Alicia Molik of Australia advanced to the second round with a 7-6 (4), 6-1 win over Italian Francesca Schiavone.

Nadia Petrova of Russia beat Ludmila Cervanova of Slovakia, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

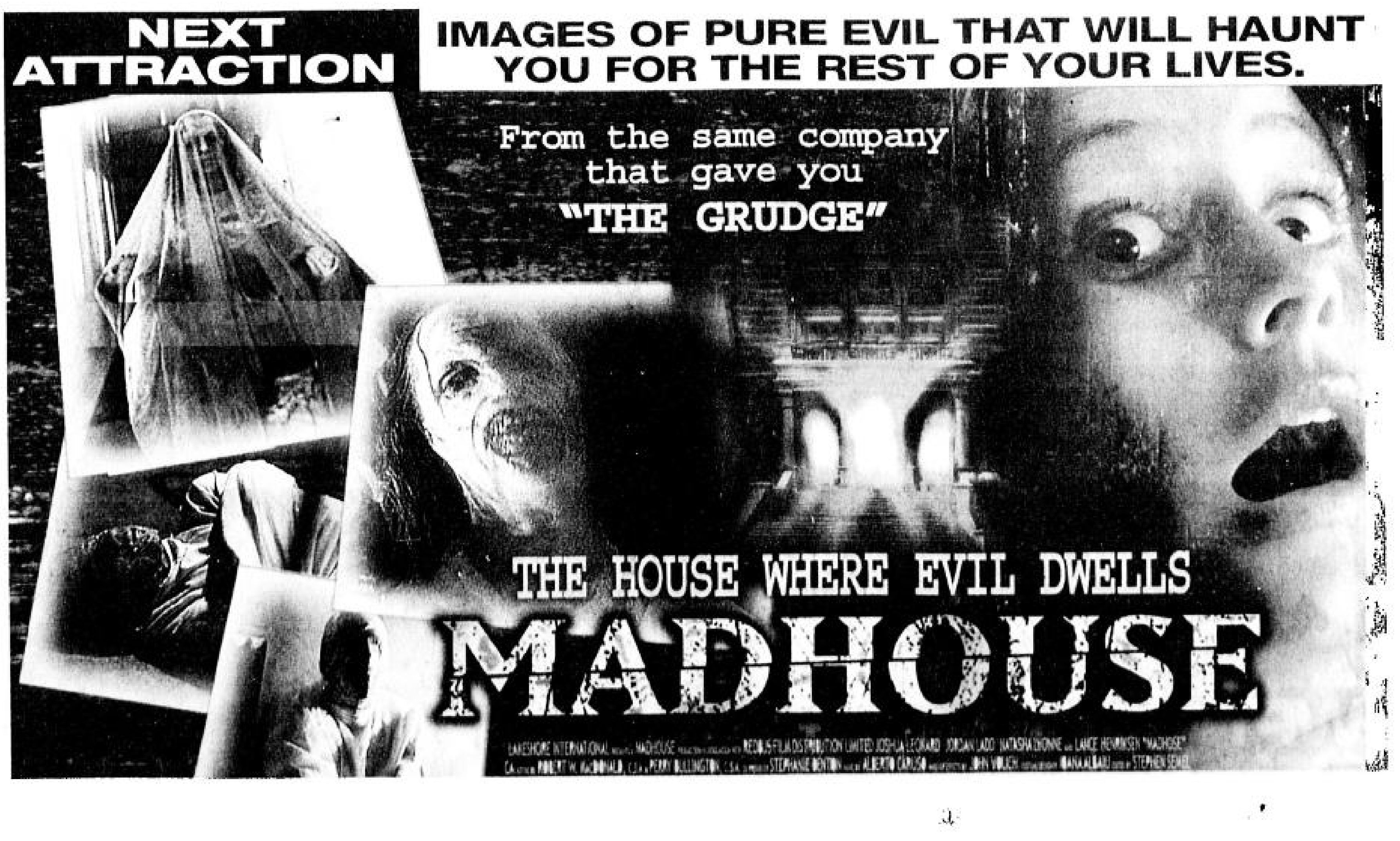
In men's play, top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt easily advanced with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Karol Beck of Slovakia. *AP*

LLEYTON Hewitt of Australia reacts after winning his match against Karol Beck of Slovakia at the International Tennis Tournament in Sydney. REUTERS

"RAISE YOUR VOICE"
Small town girl in the big city

HILLARY DUFF

Raise Your Voice stars **Hillary Duff** as Terri Fletcher, a small town girl with the voice of a big-time singer. When a personal tragedy interrupts her steady life, Terri defies her father's wishes and secretly heads off to spend a summer at a Los Angeles performing arts academy. But the school brings a whole new set of challenges for Terri, who suddenly finds herself part in an intimidating new city. Though initially overwhelmed by her new surroundings, Terri rises to the occasion with the help of some newfound friends, an encouraging teacher, and a first love that captures her heart. **Raise Your Voice** also stars *Jason Ritter, John Corbett, Rebecca De Mornay, David Keith, Rita Wilson* and *Oliver James* and is directed by *Sean McNamara*. Released by *New Line Cinema*. • ADVT



NEXT ATTRACTION
IMAGES OF PURE EVIL THAT WILL HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.
From the same company that gave you "THE GRUDGE"
THE HOUSE WHERE EVIL DWELLS
MADHOUSE

24 fascinating interviews of 2004

From page A26

Hollywood. Okay, just kidding about the Ate Vi part. But we did tell her that she is known in the Philippines.

Streep's words: "It was unbelievable to get off the plane in China and [realizing that] people know who I am. I've been insulated, living in New York where everybody's completely blasé and I think that's great. I'm anonymous blah blah but to be recognized in China and Russia and realize what worldwide celebrity is, it's still a shock. Because most of the time, when I make a movie, I go from my house to the set and back. I don't live in the larger world. I don't go to events and openings and wherever people who are real movie stars go."

The One and Only

We are sure that our editor will agree that finally meeting The Man, The One and Only, Christopher Walken, is and should be the biggest highlight of our past year (and for all time?). We still have to write about our early morning one-on-one with The Great Actor at the legendary Chateau Marmont off Sunset Boulevard. But talking to the surprisingly genial and humorous Walken remains fresh in our mind to this day, as vivid as the image of his Don King-like hair style, which he enthusiastically taught me how to achieve.

We can still hear that soft and unique Walken vocal inflection in our ears as he explained to us why he is offered mostly villain roles: "I think that has a lot to do with the way I look but also somebody said to me that it has to do with the beginning of my movie life. In 'Annie Hall,' I played a suicidal driver and then in 'The Deer Hunter,' I shot myself in the head [laughs]. But look, if you're an actor and they want you for any reason, it's good. If they want me for villains, that's okay.

"But it's nice to occasionally have a chance to do something else. I did some movies with Glenn Close for television. I played a farmer. I don't think I was very believable [laughs]. Because I was a dancer, I've done some music videos. To defy expectations was good. But ultimately, I would like to play someone with a house, a dog and a wife. My wife would wear a nice dress in the house [laughs] and I would have sons who would say to me, 'Dad, what should I do?' And I would say [like a kindly, reflective dad dispensing advice], 'Son, do the right thing [laughs].' And that would be the movie."

Also in our list of very interesting interviewees are: Barbra Streisand (truly a diva), Robin Williams (laugh-a-minute), controversial documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, Catherine Zeta-Jones ("I'm the new Imelda Marcos"), Colin Farrell (in his manner of speaking, he is a "f----g" candid subject) and Angelina Jolie (one word: beautiful!)—all of whom we profiled in these pages—and George Clooney (this January's cover story in Manila's Men's Zone magazine).

Rounding out the magic 24 are Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Clint Eastwood, Jim Carrey and Jamie Foxx (who is leading in the Best Actor race in this awards season). We have interviewed these guys but we still have to write about them, very soon.

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 (DTS) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) KUN FU HUSTLE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 BLADE TRINITY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE
4 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 (DTS) SIGAW

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS ES) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 HAPPY TOGETHER
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
4 (DTS) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320

1 KUN FU HUSTLE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 BAD SANTA
4 THE CELLULAR
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 BAD SANTA
4 HONEY
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

ANGELES (045) 892-2346

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 THE GHOST
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 OUT OF REACH
2 BAD SANTA
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 KUNG FU HUSTLE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 THE GHOST
6 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2

ILOILO (033) 338-8070

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 BAD SANTA
3 BIRTH
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 THE SIN
6 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 OCEAN'S 12	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 KUNG FU HUSTLE 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	1 OCEAN'S 12
2 BLADE: TRINITY	2 OCEAN'S 12	2 RAISE YOUR VOICE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 OCEAN'S 12 2 35, 5 05, 10 05	2 BLADE: TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE	3 BLADE: TRINITY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 OCEAN'S 12 12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	4 RAISE YOUR VOICE	4 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 RAISE YOUR VOICE 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	4 2046
5 RAISE YOUR VOICE		5 OCEAN'S 12	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 BLADE: TRINITY 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45, 11 00	5
		6 BLADE: TRINITY		
		7 HAPPY TOGETHER		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 BLADE: TRINITY 12 45, 3 00, 5 15, 7 30, 9 40
2 OCEAN'S 12 11 15, 1 45, 4 15, 6 45, 9 15

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	METRO EVENT WITH BEA ALONZO January 15, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

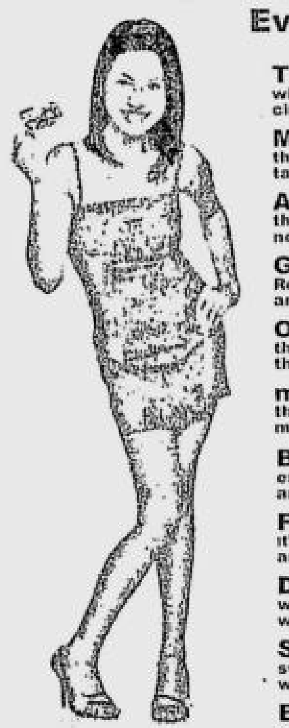
GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005

Onstage — REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM — Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

there's something about ayala cinemas

Everything that's worth seeing.



THX
with not just the largest, but also the most THX-certified cinemas, all your favorite movies come to life

MPass & sureseats.com
the country's first online reservation and ticketless system takes the hassle out of watching movies

ArtFilm
the only premier cinema where you can watch not-made-in-Hollywood alternative movies

Globe Repertory Theater
Repertory Philippines' new stage for the latest broadway and off-broadway productions

Onstage
the theater for movie premieres, live shows and everything that's entertainment

myCinema
the country's first and only exclusive cinema for private movie screenings and events

Bundled Tickets
enjoy more than a movie with free Timezone passes and food discount (now in G3 and G4, soon at G1 and ATC)

Family Day Weekends
it's quality time for the family with special activities and events themed on the latest blockbuster movies

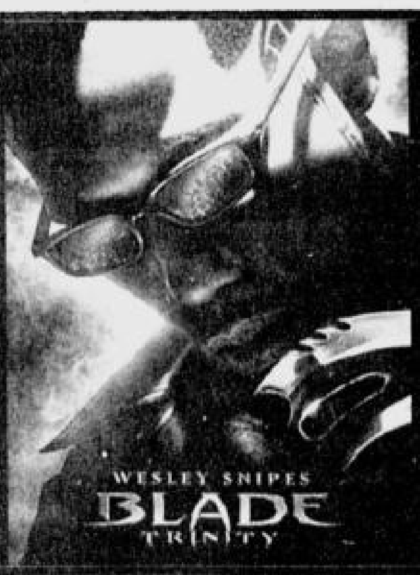
Dawn Screenings
with screenings as late as 2 am, you can end the night with action, drama or romance

Stargazing
swoon over your favorite local movie stars and celebrities when you meet them at Filipino movie premieres

Exclusives
extraordinary movies you won't be seeing anywhere else but at Ayala Cinemas

The magic of movies and more.

AYALA MALLS LoveMall!
AYALA CINEMAS



NOW SHOWING

in

AYALA CINEMAS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER • GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 1 & 3 • AYALA CENTER CEBU

For screening schedules, call 729-7777.

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

PIONEER FILMS
NEW LINE CINEMAS

Give them the gift of total entertainment.

for only ₱200

1 Ayala Cinemas Ticket
7 Timezone Passes
1 Taters/Chimara Cine-Snack

Available in all Taters/Chimara and Ayala Cinemas Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Cebu.

CHIMARA

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU

LoveMall!

24 fascinating interviews of 2004

From page A28

to meet the man Cloris Leachman married. And there was George, and I introduced them. They became the deepest, closest friends and George tells about their relationship in his book."

Pacino's passion

Al Pacino is looking bedraggled these days, but you can still see the fire in his eyes, the passion in his gravely voice. During our interview, we saw the man's openness. He was forthright. From a haggard-looking man, he transformed himself at will into the most charming, appealing guy in the room. Incidentally, we were privileged to interview De Niro one day and Pacino, the next day (they are our generation's greatest actors—after Christopher Walken of course).

Told about our press con with De Niro the previous day, Pacino said, "Robert has never been one to talk. He's never been. In all the years I've known him—and I love him because he's the sweetest person and he's been so good to me in so many ways—he's not just a talker. It's not his style. I have seen, over the years, how people have forgiven him for it because they've accepted him that way."

A talker, this one

Martin Scorsese turns out to be a short person but it must be his giant status as a director that made us expect a taller man. He is younger looking in person, too. Now, this guy is a talker. It took him about 15 minutes to answer my one short question on how he guided Cate Blanchett to come up with her mesmerizing portrayal of Katherine Hepburn in "The Aviator." We didn't mind—how often do you get the undivided attention of one of the world's greatest directors?

His reply began this way: "That's a good question. It's a very daunting task to tell somebody, listen, I want you to play Katherine Hepburn. I felt that she was the only actress who had the intelligence to deal with something like this, and of course, a command of the artistry and craft of acting."

MERYL Streep

JACKIE Chan

Not so great

While Scorsese is reaping laurels for "The Aviator," Oliver Stone is not so successful with "Alexander." However, some critics think Stone's epic was not a complete disaster; it was an "honorable failure." After amiably reminding me that he shot two certain films in the Philippines, Stone asked for an update of the country.

Stone on the depiction of sexuality in Alexander's era, as compared to the sexual mores in today's society, especially with several American states voting against gay marriage: "We were obviously not alive in the Greek times but I would say that back then, it was a more innocent society in the sense that they were more polymorphous. There were not the judgments made based on gender that we have since we subdivided ourselves. We have feminism, anti-gay. They didn't even have these words. They didn't have a concept of homosexuality or even heterosexuality. Men, if they wanted, graduated from [partnering with] men to women and often, when they were older, they could take younger men, younger boys to teach."

Refreshing face

It was refreshing and a source of pride to see an Asian face—Jackie Chan—being interviewed for a change. And despite his fractured English, Chan got the blasé Hollywood reporters' attention, thanks to his lively storytelling. We interviewed another Asian, the lovely Zhang Ziyi, who was impressive in "The House of the Flying Daggers." We hope the day comes soon when a Filipino actor will face our group.

Chan on the tough demands he makes on himself: "A few years ago, my wife called me while I was filming in Bangkok. She said, Jackie, your ma died. Then somebody shouted, ready, action! What am I to do? She already died. Should I cry? Should I run back? No, I hung up the phone. I kept filming. Nobody knew what happened until the production wrapped for the day. I drove back to the hotel. I cried and cried."

Do you curtsy?

Do you curtsy in front of The Great Actress? Meeting Meryl Streep in New York was definitely one of the high points of the year for us. To a colleague who told her she looked too young to be Liev Schreiber's ambitious mom in the acclaimed remake of "The Manchurian Candidate," she mouthed the words "I love you!" Nevertheless, Streep earned a well-deserved Golden Globe Best Supporting Actress nomination.

Streep frankly told us that even as she was fielding questions that minute during our press con, she was also "thinking what to cook tonight" for her children and their "big, hungry friends." And believe it or not, she seemed genuinely surprised that people in other parts of the world, like China and Russia (she visited both in 2004) do know her. So we told her that in the Philippines, she is known as the Vilma Santos of

24 FASCINATING/ A25

No way to treat . . .

From page A27

Themes: Seeing what courage is really all about. Learning that love can mean saying no. Being patient. Finding someone who can give you the support you need.

'Cinderella Story'

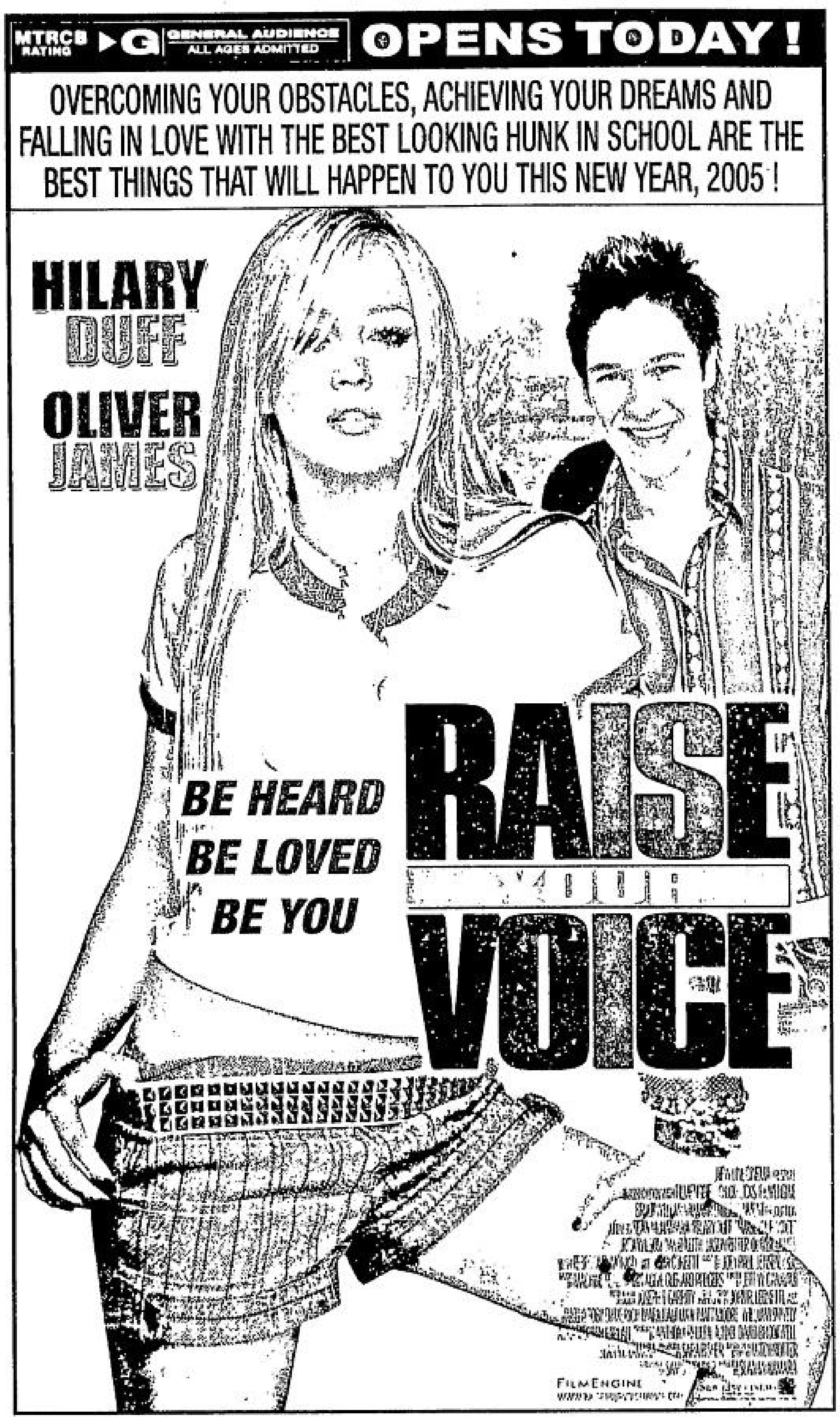
HILARY Duff's hit starrer, "Cinderella Story," is now available on DVD and VCD.

Join the "Globe Gizmo Cinderella Treat." Every video purchase entitles customers to a raffle coupon for a chance to win a gift set, which includes the Globe Gizmo phone kit, "Cinderella Story snow globe, and cell phone accessories. Deadline is Feb. 7.

New films

IN "CONSTANTINE," **Keanu Reeves** plays a misfit who investigates supernatural mysteries, walking a thin line between good and evil. He teams up with a female detective (**Rachel Weisz**) who is investigating the "suicide" of her twin sister.

In "The Wrong Element," **Harrison Ford** portrays the security chief of a global bank whose family is kidnapped. He's ordered to steal $37M from the bank to save his loved ones.

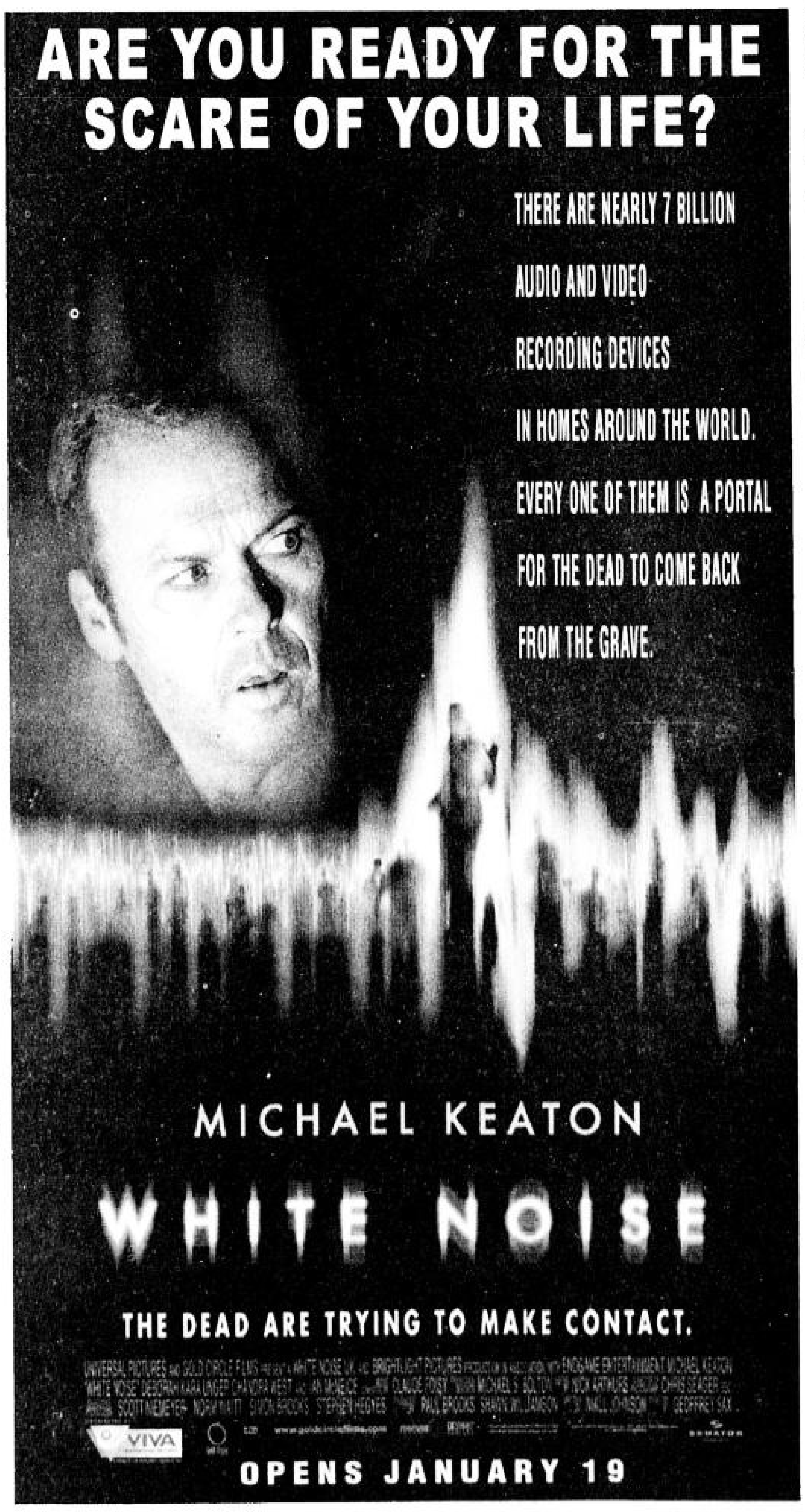


MTRCB RATING ▶G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED
OPENS TODAY!
OVERCOMING YOUR OBSTACLES, ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS AND FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE BEST LOOKING HUNK IN SCHOOL ARE THE BEST THINGS THAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU THIS NEW YEAR, 2005!
HILARY DUFF
OLIVER JAMES
BE HEARD
BE LOVED
BE YOU
RAISE YOUR VOICE
FILMENGINE

Exclusive SCREENING
MOVIEWORLD
Robinsons Movieworld
METRO EAST
January 12
From Jean-Jacques Annaud, the highly acclaimed director of The Bear, comes a heartwarming story about the power of friendship and the bond between brothers
SYNOPSIS:
Two mischievous twin tiger cubs live a carefree life in an exotic jungle amidst beautiful ancient ruins. But one day, an act of fate forces them apart, as one is sold off to the circus and the other becomes the pampered pet of a governor's son. Witness their remarkable journey as these tigers grow up, reunite and embark on an incredible adventure to find their way home.
CAST:
Guy Pearce, Jean-Claude Dreyfus, Oanh Nguyen, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, Moussa Maaskri, Vincent Scarito
MTRCB Rating: G
Solar Entertainment Corporation

A NEW FAMILY ADVENTURE FILM
from the award-winning director of "The Bear"
TWO BROTHERS
BROTHERHOOD KNOWS NO BOUNDS

MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
OPENS JANUARY 19
AMERICA'S NO. 1 FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS!
$ 204,300,000 IN THE U.S. AND COUNTING...
Robert De Niro
Ben Stiller
Dustin Hoffman
Barbra Streisand
Blythe Danner
Teri Polo
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.
united international pictures
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
DreamWorks Pictures



ARE YOU READY FOR THE SCARE OF YOUR LIFE?
THERE ARE NEARLY 7 BILLION AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES IN HOMES AROUND THE WORLD. EVERY ONE OF THEM IS A PORTAL FOR THE DEAD TO COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE.
MICHAEL KEATON
WHITE NOISE
THE DEAD ARE TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT.
VIVA
OPENS JANUARY 19

No way to treat child singers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ON CHANNEL 2's "MTB" noontime show last Dec. 30, we caught a "diva" singing contest for little girls that disturbed us:

Four child singers were asked to sing an excerpt of a "birit" song at its proper pitch. Then the key was raised, and they had to sing at that level. Then it was raised again, and they struggled to reach the inordinately high notes.

By the fourth time around, some of the girls' singing voices cracked, and they were eliminated. So, the day's prize went to the child singer who "survived" the rigorous test of inexorably rising musical keys and pitches.

The hosts handling the portion had a fun time goading the little singers to keep stretching the outer limits of their vocal range, but the poor girls were clearly suffering—so, what was so enjoyable about that!

We urge the people running the show to reconsider the way that this contest is being conducted. It's no fun at all to see young children being made to undergo tests like this.

In addition, we invite music teachers to join this discussion, and share their expert opinion on the physical damage that this "singing" contest could wreak on children's vocal cords.

And we ask child psychologists to tell us what they think about this kind of contest. What could be its psychological effects on the child contestants?

We aren't experts, but we sense that there's something wrong and potentially injurious about a contest that requires young people to "sing" or screech at the top of their voices.

Children have so many other abilities to test and develop that would be better enhanced by TV competitions like this.

What's so admirable about hitting the highest note possible, and why make such a big deal out of it, especially when child contestants are involved?

Parents, music teachers and child psychologists, tell us what you think.

Films that impart values

WE'VE received requests for more recommendations of films that "heal," inculcate positive values in young people, and make viewers think.

"I Never Sang for My Father." A young man is tasked with taking care of his aging father, and has a hard time coping with his idiosyncrasies. Eventually, however, he accepts the relationship **for what he can be. (Directed by Gilbert Cates,** starring **Melvyn Douglas** and **Gene Hackman.)**

Themes to think about: Having to take care of a parent. Realizing a parent is getting too old to take care of himself. Relationships between fathers and sons. Trying to have a family bond you've never had before.

"The Joy Luck Club," directed by Wayne Wang. Four immigrants from China meet weekly to play mahjong and brag about their daughters. When one of them dies, the others realize that their daughters really don't know them. One by one, the women reveal their pasts to their daughters.

"Kramer vs Kramer," by **Robert Benton.** After his wife leaves, Ted brings up their son alone. Just as he's getting the hang of it, however, his wife returns and fights for custody. His career falls apart as they fight it out in the courtroom, but she eventually realizes that he's best suited to give their son what he needs.

Themes: Learning to take care of your child. Realizing you're unhappy.

"The Miracle Worker," by Arthur Penn. Born deaf and blind, **Helen Keller** was a wild child. In desperation, her parents hire **Annie Sullivan** to teach Helen how to communicate, and how to respond to a world she can neither see nor hear. After much effort, Annie is able to reach Helen.

NO/A26

SM CINEMA movietime

movlepickoftheWeek

GEORGE CLOONEY
BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
and JULIA ROBERTS

TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN
OCEAN'S TWELVE

NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING, R13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Bacoor
Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro

KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Marilao
Bacoor • Dasmariñas

OCEAN'S TWELVE
MTRCB RATING PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Baguio
Bacoor • Batangas • Dasmariñas
Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 MANO PO 3
6 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city marilao
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city baguio
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city bacoor
1 SIGAW
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 ENTENG KABISOTE
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3

sm city batangas
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city dasmariñas
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city lucena
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 MANO PO 3
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 ONE MISSED CALL
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 BLADE TRINITY

sm city iloilo
1 ONE MISSED CALL
2 RESERVED
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 RESERVED
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city davao
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ONE MISSED CALL
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 FORGOTTEN

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

NOW SHOWING

THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SUPERHERO IS BACK !

From MARVEL, the creator of SPIDERMAN comes BLADE TRINITY... the final chapter

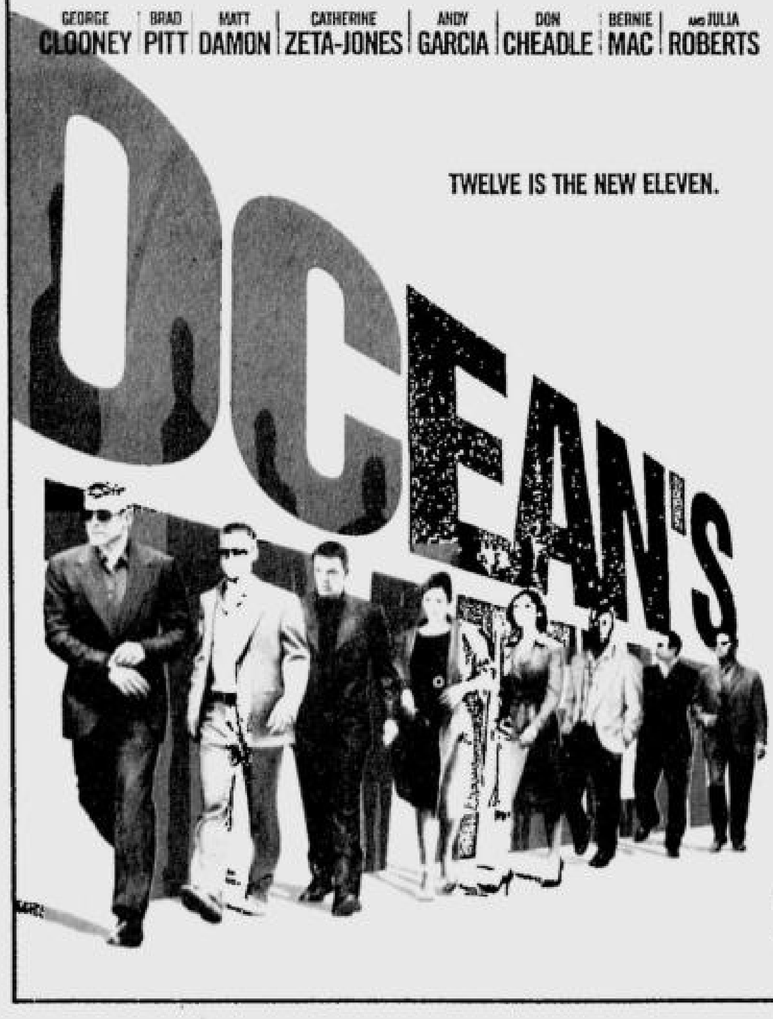
WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE
TRINITY
JESSICA BIEL RYAN REYNOLDS
MARVEL

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

NOW SHOWING

"'OCEAN'S TWELVE' IS THE BEST ENSEMBLE FILM OF THE YEAR."
- Paul Clinton, CNN.com

GEORGE CLOONEY | BRAD PITT | MATT DAMON | CATHERINE ZETA-JONES | ANDY GARCIA | DON CHEADLE | BERNIE MAC | and JULIA ROBERTS



TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.

"'TWELVE' ADDS UP TO GREAT FUN."
- BOSTON GLOBE

"TWO THUMBS UP FOR 'OCEAN'S TWELVE.'"
- Ebert & Roeper

"A worthy sequel to 'Ocean's Eleven'... 'Twelve' is more fun than thewildest rollercoaster ride!"
- Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD

"Hollywood's most entertainingly appealing gang of thieves makes another big score."
- David Sheehan, HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS

"The real-life camaraderie of Clooney, Pitt, Damon and the rest translates to the screen with charm and verve."
- Claudia Puig, USA TODAY

"A goofy stylist heist movie that'll steal moviegoers from other pictures."
- David Sterritt, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

OCEAN'S TWELVE

OPENS TODAY MTRCB R-13

Not since " Notting Hill " has there been a Romantic Comedy this sweet, sexy and funny!
KATRIN WEISSER
TIM WILLIAMS
SANDRA LEONHARD
then call me.
Seeking impotent ma
Fairly attractive woman in
ties is seeking
with, for adv
hip.
s: Intelligen
in search of an impotent man
GABY HAUPTMANN
LAUTERBACH
BACH
BONING

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

SATURDAY
2BU STYLE
2BU SURVEY Do you celebrate Valen
INQUIRER Badminton Monthly
ELAN
A change of heart
INQUIRER Golf Monthly
Oldies but Goodies
INQUIRER magazine
Cindy Kurleto
Sweetheart Season
Junior INQUIRER
JOB Market
We want YOU!
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING: eReps
RECRUITMENT
Only from PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

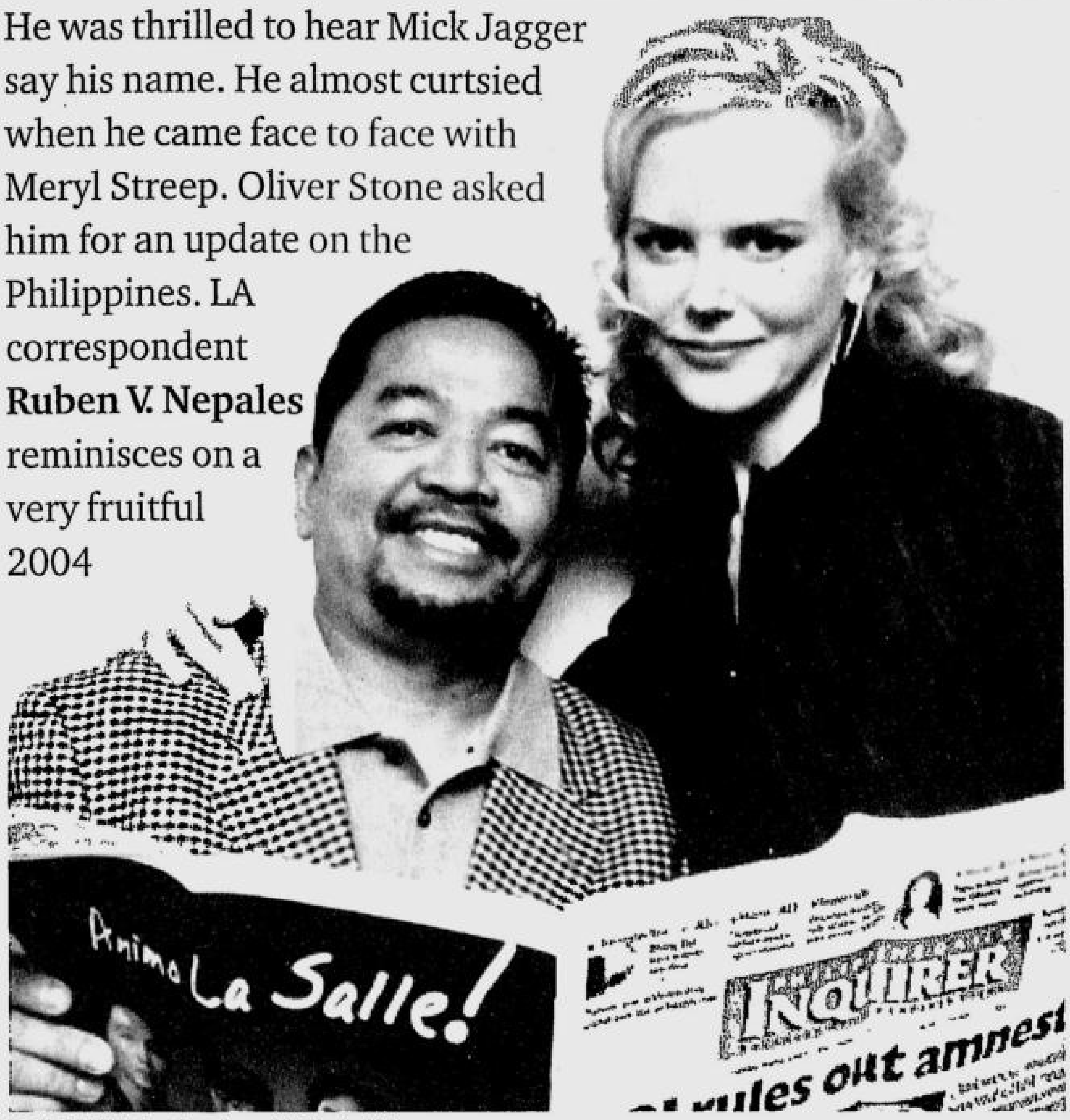
WE DELIVER!
INQUIRER
GMA: No president can break RP-US ties
This rainy season, have your copy delivered straight to your doorsteps!
Subscribe Now!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building, 636 T.M. Kalaw St. Ermita, Manila or you can fax to 528 - 0234

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name ____________________
Address ____________________
____________________ Tel. No. ____________
Signature ____________________

He was thrilled to hear Mick Jagger say his name. He almost curtsied when he came face to face with Meryl Streep. Oliver Stone asked him for an update on the Philippines. LA correspondent **Ruben V. Nepales** reminisces on a very fruitful 2004



PDI'S MAN in Los Angeles, with Nicole Kidman

24 fascinating interviews of 2004

LOS ANGELES—We looked back on 2004 and came up with 24 most fascinating interviews from quite a heady list.

The folks listed here simply stood out for various reasons, not always because they were loquacious or famous. They are listed randomly, that is, not in any order of importance. We took almost a whole day digging up our notes and transcripts for the quotable quotes.

Shy De Niro

Either Robert De Niro is painfully shy or remarkably inarticulate. My journalist group's first 10 minutes with him was getting uncomfortable because of his one-word or one-line replies. Only both sides' sense of humor saved the day; he eventually gave several three or four-sentence rejoinders. De Niro may not be glib, but his eloquence as an actor more than makes up for this seeming inarticulateness.

On how critical he is of his work: "I'm not satisfied with most of it. I think, well, maybe I could have done better and so on and so forth, so when I look at a movie 10 years later, if I happen to catch it on television or something, then I would be more, "'Oh, that's not bad or, you know, that's interesting.' There's a little more objectivity."

Cheap thrill

Mick Jagger's lips are not as full (or is age—he is 61—shrinking them?) as I seem to remember, and the hard-edged features are softer in person (or was it the lighting at the Essex House in New York?). Anyhow, when we were introduced, to hear our name coming from what must be among the most famous lips of the 20th century and spoken in that raspy Jagger voice was one of our biggest cheap thrills of 2004.

Asked if he had old habits that died hard, an allusion to "Old Habits Die Hard," an original song he wrote with Dave Stewart for the "Alfie" soundtrack and which recently won a Golden Globe nomination for Best Original song nomination: "Oh, well, I'm afraid a lot of my old habits have bitten the dust. From experience, but it's true because the thing about life is it's very hard to put things that you've dealt with a lot of times, like smoking, drinking, eating too much, staying out too late and partying and all that but you have to get rid of some habits and then you get other habits instead. Otherwise, your life's just really dull and boring."

A kid for Kidman

Nicole Kidman, Tom Cruise's beautiful ex, told us, "I would like to have a baby. I am not pregnant now [laughs]. But I would love [to have a baby]. I hope that happens at some stage before I get too old." So when a colleague pounced on her declaration and asked how she was going to have a baby since she was unattached at the time of the interview, the statuesque Aussie laughed, leaned forward, pounded on the table and said: "Exactly! How?"

On her acting talent: "I never feel like I have any talent [laughs]. I don't. I always feel like I'm going to be found out."

Cruise's code

Ms Kidman, how about this guy, Tom Cruise? After all, he has told us, "I'm a guy who's going to get married again." For the holidays, Cruise sent us (and perhaps hundreds of other folks) a beautifully packaged envelope containing a framed "Code of Honor" by L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, of which the actor is a member. This is number 12 in the Code: "Never fear to hurt another in a just cause." A printed note in the envelope said: "A donation has been made on your behalf to the International Association of Scientologists."

Cruise turned in one of the finest performances of the year in "Collateral" but unfortunately, his matinee idol status seems to be hurting his chances again in the best actor races. A question to Cruise, on whether he went to a psychiatrist to understand the psyche of the professional killer he plays in "Collateral," led to a long reply against psychiatry that started this way: "The last thing I would ever do is talk to a psychiatrist [laughs]. You want truth, you don't go to a psychiatrist. No, I just really look at the moral code of a character because I've studied antisocial behavior and personalities. In Scientology, there is a large body of knowledge that we study about antisocials."

Cloris who?

Next on our list is Cloris Leachman. Cloris who? To kids whose idea of a veteran actress is Lindsay Lohan, Leachman is an ever-reliable TV and film actress they may have seen on "Malcolm in the Middle" and "The Ellen Show." This Oscar Best Supporting Actress in 1971 for "The Last Picture Show" is a delight (as usual) in James Brooks' comedy starring Adam Sandler, "Spanglish."

Dressed fabulously (she can teach today's shabbily dressed stars about looking good), this 78-year-old charmer had us laughing from start to finish. She made her entrance gliding in like a theater diva, chin up and head on the side to show her profile. Saying "Where are the lovely flowers that Olivia De Havilland might have had, had she been here," she picked up four potted poinsettias, sat down, cradled the plants and posed like Binibining Pilipinas holding a bouquet.

On the late great Marlon Brando, who became her ex-husband George Englund's best friend: "Marlon started asking me out and I would never go out with him [laughs]. Later, after I married George, we were at [actor] Burgess Meredith's house for brunch. Marlon was there and he said, 'Oh, I've always wanted

24 FASCINATING/ A26

AL PACINO

COLIN Farrell

MICK Jagger

ERIC Clapton

Wireless Wonder
Acer n30 Pocket PC
Only: P 14,950.00
For inquiries, call: 815-3388
acer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Only multimedia projector with built-in document camera
PROJECTS 3-D IMAGES & MOVING OBJECTS
TOSHIBA
PRESENTATION Solution CENTER
Sales Rentals Service
TELS. 723-1356 / 727-6973 / 723-6138 / 723-6890

Nov. export growth fastest in 2 years

EXPORTS grew at their fastest pace in more than two years in the 12 months through November 2004, rising 19.5 percent on the back of healthy electronics shipments, the government announced yesterday.

But economists said the outlook for this year was not as bright since global demand for electronics, which account for two-thirds of the country's exports, was expected to ease.

"The external environment continues to be a bit uncertain for the Philippines," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore.

He said export growth might hold double-digit levels in the first four to five months of 2005, supported by a low base from the year earlier.

The National Statistics Office said export earnings in November jumped to $3.69 billion from $3.08 billion a year earlier. Japan and the United States continued to be the top markets.

The 19.5-percent growth was the largest since the 24.2-percent expansion in the year through July 2002, contrasting with some other Asian exporters which saw slowing growth in November.

"It's above expectations. The market was expecting around 16-percent growth," said Jose Mario Cuyegkeng, an economist at ING Bank in Manila.

November was the second consecutive month of double-digit export growth, after a rise of 12.3 percent in the year through October. Shipments grew 8.4 percent in the year through September.

Exports of electronics, mainly assembled from imported parts, were 16.1 percent higher in November at $2.49 billion than a year earlier.

Total shipments in the first 11 months of 2004 were $36.33 billion, 9.9 percent higher than $33.06 billion a year earlier.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said last week the government expected export growth to slow to 8 percent in 2005 from about 10 percent in 2004 due to a weaker global economy.

He said electronics would continue to be the country's export driver, followed by food and automotive parts, but that garments would take a hit from the scrapping of a decades-old global quota system on textiles.

"Garments is almost 8 percent of total exports," Cuyegkeng said. "With electronics exports expected to slow down, the country's two major export sectors will be faced with potential weakness."

The government has targeted an economic expansion of 5.3 to 6.3 percent between 2005 and 2004, compared with an estimated 6.1 percent between 2004 and 2003.

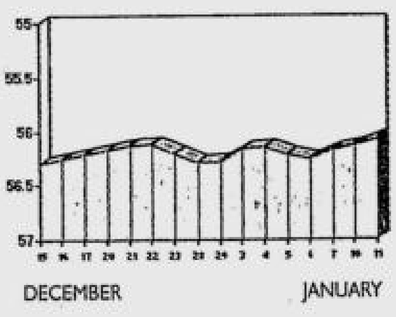
The central bank has been wary of raising interest rates, despite rising inflation, to try to support economic growth.

The central bank, whose policy-making Monetary Board is due to meet on Thursday, has kept its overnight borrowing rate at 6.75 percent and its lending rate at 9 percent since July 2003. Reuters

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.070 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2005

¥ 104.03 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2005

GOLD: $ 421.50-422.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 11, 2005

January 11, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.764351	1.000000	56.1590
Japan	Yen	0.007328	0.009587	0.5384
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433616	1.875600	105.3318
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.098062	0.128294	7.2049
Switzerland	Franc	0.646713	0.846095	47.5158
Canada	Dollar	0.625236	0.817996	45.9378
Singapore	Dollar	0.465245	0.608680	34.1829
Australia	Dollar	0.580813	0.759878	42.6740
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.027563	2.652661	148.9708
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203822	0.266660	14.9754
Brunei	Dollar	0.463833	0.606833	34.0791
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019544	0.025569	1.4359
UAE	Dirham	0.208133	0.272301	15.2922
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.308300	73.4728
Argentina	Peso	0.257574	0.336984	18.9247
Brazil	Real	0.283934	0.371471	20.8614
Denmark	Kroner	0.134410	0.175849	9.8755
India	Rupee	0.017443	0.022821	1.2816
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201172	0.263193	14.7807
Mexico	New Peso	0.067972	0.088928	4.9941
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530910	0.694589	39.0074
Norway	Kroner	0.121499	0.158957	8.9269
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012837	0.016795	0.9432
South Africa	Rand	0.128236	0.167771	9.4219
Korea	Won	0.000726	0.000950	0.0534
Sweden	Kroner	0.110608	0.144709	8.1267
Syria	Pound	0.014724	0.019264	1.0818
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023726	0.031041	1.7432

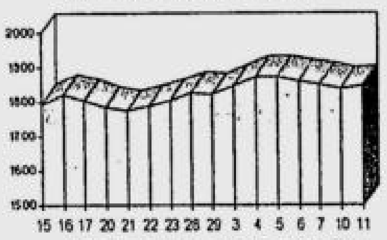
STOCK MARKET

Stocks up on favorable export data

SHARE prices closed 0.29 percent higher yesterday after better-than-expected November export figures and a steadier performance overnight on Wall Street, dealers said.

They said investors remained very selective, focusing mainly on a few second-line stocks with improved earnings prospects.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 5.36 points to 1,845.83 after moving between 1,840.19 and 1,854.42.

Volume totaled 3.05 billion shares worth P964.1 million from 1.32 billion shares worth P9.47 billion on Monday.

The broader all-shares index rose 16.72 points to 1,173.34.

Gainers led losers 50 to 21, with 49 stocks unchanged.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) was up P5 to P1,360 while its unit Pilipino Telephone Corp. gained 10 centavos at P3.25.

AFP

BPI chief says 2005 won't be as good as '04

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YEAR 2005 won't likely be as good as last year for Philippine enterprises, especially with the rising interest rate regime, said the new chief of Bank of the Philippine Islands.

BPI president Aurelio Montinola IIII, in a recent briefing, said corporate profits were relatively good last year, as indicated by the resurgence of local stocks. But he was less bullish for this year, given the scenario of rising inflation and interest rates.

"Loan demand is going to be at best moderate," he said.

Higher utility charges and interest rates as well as new tax measures adopted by the government are seen affecting consumer demand.

Montinola said a one-percentage point rise in domestic interest rates this year would be "manageable" but warned that a two-percentage point increase would be "difficult."

"Hopefully, the maximum increase in interest rates this year will be 1.5 (percentage points)," Montinola said.

The bank expects the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to align its interest rates with that of the US Federal Reserve, which began a series of tightening last year, but at a less aggressive pace compared to its US counterpart.

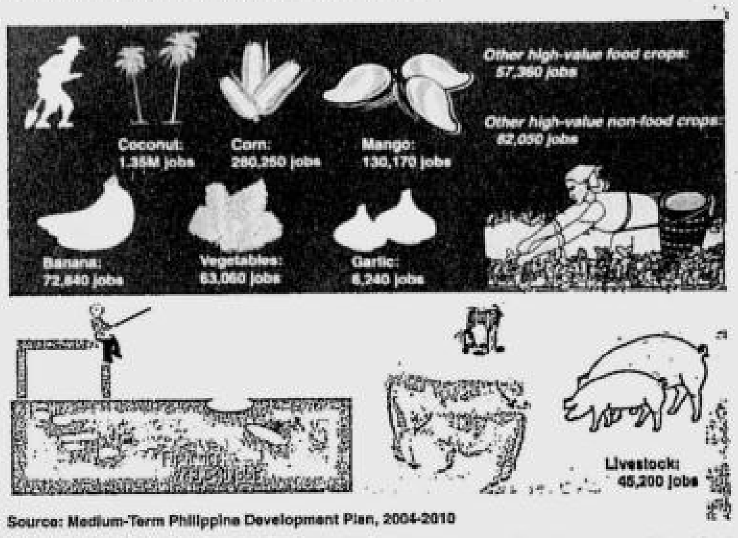
So far, the BSP has kept its key policy interest rates unchanged at 6.75 percent for the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 9 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate since July last year.

BPI/B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Job creation through agribusiness development (2004-2010)



Source: Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, 2004-2010

WITHIN six years, this administration aims to develop 2 million hectares of land for agribusiness that could create 2 million jobs out of the 10 million promised by the President. Identified areas for agribusiness development and enhancement include corn, livestock, fisheries such as bangus, tilapia and seaweeds and high value crops like pineapple, sugar, mango, banana, cassava, coconut, abaca and rubber among others.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

4-year treasury bond rate rises to 12%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COST of the government's four-year borrowings rose to 12 percent, a rate the Bureau of Treasury considered reasonable after banks, showing they were awash with cash, offered huge volumes of bids.

The new 12-percent rate for the four-year T-bond was higher than the 11.65 percent recorded in November.

"The rate was reasonable, considering the volume they (banks) gave," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said in a briefing after the auction. He added that 12 percent was acceptable since the government has set that amount of yield as a benchmark for the four-year T-bond.

The government's debt offering was oversubscribed more than twice as tenders reached P21.1 billion compared with the P10 billion that it was scheduled to borrow. The Treasury's auction committee accepted P10 billion

4-YEAR/B3

GO BEYOND.
RANGE ROVER
LAND ROVER
RANGE ROVER
DISCOVERY
FREELANDER
DEFENDER

LRPHILS MOTORS, INC.
MAKATI SHOWROOM
ENZO Bldg., 399 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel: (632) 897-8888 Fax: (632) 895-2677
E-mail: sales@landroverphils.com

ORTIGAS SHOWROOM
88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel: (632) 633-3976 to 78
Fax: (632) 633-3976 to 77

SERVICE CENTER
3904 Quingua St. (near EDSA/BUENDIA), Makati City
Tel: (632) 881-7252; (632) 881-7060 Fax: (632) 882-6503
24 hr helpline: (63) 920-952-4827
E-mail: service_ops@landroverphils.com

RANGE ROVER DISCOVERY 3 FREELANDER DEFENDER
LAND-ROVER

3 YEAR OR 100,000 KILOMETER WARRANTY
Provided by Factory Certified Service Center

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CAP signs $300-M loan deal with US investment fund

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED firm College Assurance Plan last week signed an agreement with a US investment fund, identified as First American Investment Ltd., for a $300-million loan that will be used to settle maturing educational plans, company director Robert John Sobrepeña said.

The loan package will be repaid over 10 years, with a grace period of four years. A company source said the loan would be availed of within 10 months after the signing of the deal. He said the first drawdown would be $80 million.

Sobrepeña said CAP shareholders would eventually be responsible in settling the loan from First American Investment Fund since they were the borrowers on behalf of CAP.

CAP has named Bank of Commerce as the escrow and trustee bank for this loan.

The loan agreement, however, has yet to be approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

As this developed, company officials said the reported plan to buy out planholders had yet to be formally submitted to the board. The board will have to decide whether to pursue the proposal which came from CAP director William Russell Sobrepeña.

In the meantime, the SEC is in the process of preparing a letter of acceptance for CAP's proposal to swap shares for real-estate assets held by Green Square Properties and Green Circle Properties and Resources, provided clean titles to these property would be submitted.

Green Circle and Green Square are proposing to subscribe to CAP shares worth P6 billion and to pay for such with parcels of land in Baler town in the eastern province of Aurora near Dingalan Bay.

But some of the titles of these property, measuring 30.46 million square meters, were said to be held by the government.

Romeo Roxas, president of Green Square Properties Corp., proposed to issue a separate title, free and clear of land claims under the Agrarian Reform program. Roxas reportedly owns 30,000 hectares of land in the area.

William Sobrepeña informally informed the SEC earlier of a proposal that might address the present concerns of its almost 800,000 planholders. This involved the possible buyout of all planholders.

The first phase of this proposal will involve giving planholders the option to be bought out by CAP using cash raised by a consortium of private firms. These private equity firms, which may be managed by investment banks, will help CAP raise funds to pre-terminate plans.

CAP will buy plans from planholders who will opt to terminate their education plans with CAP and recover the amount they used to buy the plan.

Planholders will be paid based on the termination values of their respective plans. The termination value varies depending on when the plan was bought and when it will be terminated. If it is terminated on the plan's seventh year from the date of purchase, the planholder may get 75 percent of the gross price. If it is on the ninth year, the planholder receives 100 percent.

In order to improve CAP's debt-to-equity ratio and wipe out its liabilities, the second phase will involve the conversion of trust fund liabilities into equity. This would result in the transfer of ownership of the trust fund to the private equity fund through the issuance of either common or preferred stock.

The private equity fund can then develop, turnaround, or sell these trust fund assets which consist of investments in shares, securities and properties worth an estimated P8.5 billion.

The final phase may involve the sale of the private equity fund's stake in the trust fund to another equity investor . This may involve a possible public offering by CAP after its trust fund liabilities are settled.

DMCI to sell portion of stake in Semirara

CONSTRUCTION firm DMCI Holdings Inc. said it would sell portion of its stake in its coal subsidiary, Semirara Mining Corp. (Semirara), under certain conditions.

This will form part of the Semirara shares to be offered to domestic and international investors, particularly in Asia, North America and Europe. Sources said a roadshow will be held to drum up investor interest in Semirara.

DMCI said in a disclosure yesterday that the number of listed shares to be sold would not exceed 60 million common shares or 20 percent of Semirara's outstanding capital stock after its international placements. The shares will be priced between P22 and P44 per share.

DMCI will disclose the terms and conditions of the secondary sale of listed Semirara shares as soon as details are finalized.

Also, a total of 15.18 million Semirara common shares or at least 5 percent of the company's expanded capital will be made available to Philippine Stock Exchange trading participants as part of its domestic offering. The domestic offering will be held concurrently with Semirara's international offer.

Last November, Semirara reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission that it was planning to offer P2.06 billion to P4.125 billion worth of shares to foreign investors to raise funds for the expansion of its production capacity.

After deducting underwriter fees, commissions and other estimated expenses related to the offering, the net proceeds are expected to reach P1.32 billion, which will be shared by the selling shareholder and Semirara.

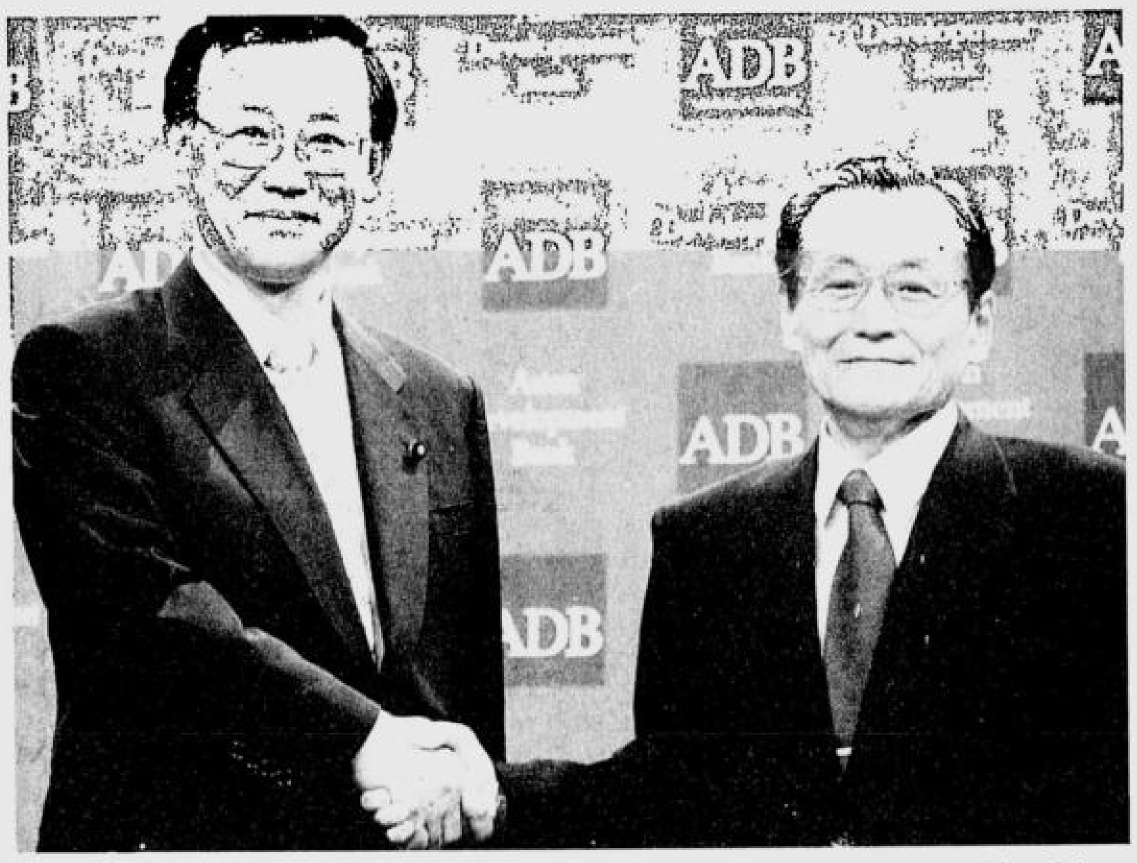
The shares to be offered included 31.25 million existing shares offered by construction DMCI Holdings Inc. and 62.5 million new shares.

DMCI owns 94 percent of Semirara. This, however, will be reduced to 65.6 percent after the offering.

A total of 30 percent of Semirara's equity will be sold to institutional investors.

Macquarie is the global coordinator of the offering along with international underwriters that have yet to be identified.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez



JAPANESE Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki (left) met with Asian Development Bank president Tadao Chino after his speech yesterday at the ADB headquarters in Pasig City. Japan pledged an additional $20 million for the tsunami disaster relief through the use of the nation's trust funds at the ADB. Tokyo also pledged another $20 million through the World Bank, Finance Ministry officials said in Tokyo. AP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 11, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	205,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	25.5	26	25.5	26	200,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53	141,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	22,400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	1,700,000
International Exch. Bank	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	79,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	25.5	26	481,800
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	26,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	11,300
Security Bank Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	29,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2570	2570	2570	2570	50
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	109	109	105	105	610
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1810	1810	1810	1810	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	40,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	35,227,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	925	925	925	925	83,940
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.7	3.25	3.6	885,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.3	3.1	3.25	30,826,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1360	1380	1360	1360	95,730
Ivantage Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.6	0.62	1,130,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	18,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	154,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25	223,800
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.45	13,615,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	97,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	16,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	2,892,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	1,800,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.99	0.9	0.99	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	7,926,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	7,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	81,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	41,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	79,200
San Miguel Corp. B	79	79	78.5	79	332,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	330,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	104,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	1,501,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	160,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.64	347,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.09	3,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	161,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	8,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	17.5	18.5	17.5	18.25	32,900
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.69	4,850,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.17	9,290,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.195	0.205	0.185	0.19	6,660,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.95	8,498,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.08	730,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	2,421,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	31	31	959,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	2,800,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	2,100,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.8	0.82	0.79	0.79	310,000
Ionics Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	317,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	180,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.3	2.32	2.26	2.3	655,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	600,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.17	0.3	0.17	0.3	350,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	14,350,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	260,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.39	510,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	76,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,380,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	8,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	21	21	21	21	33,600
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	61,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	5,010,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1	1.02	0.97	0.98	2,300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.53	540,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	18	18.25	18	18.25	157,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	5,136,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	6,250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	1,010,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,270,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	350,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	190,000
Primex Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	100,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	90,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	874,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	6,088,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	113,200,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	201,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	23,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	13,370,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	7,670,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	377,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	79,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	910,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.81	0.83	0.8	0.82	9,460,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.83	5,800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	7,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	44,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	575,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.0065	375,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.27	1,470,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	620,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	3,700,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.42	2.44	25,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0525	0.0575	0.05	0.05	17,300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	270,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. confirmed that state-run National Development Corp. is extending a P36-million loan to PNCC for traffic alleviation in the PNCC-operated portion of the South Luzon Expressway and for the Alabang Viaduct repair.

* * *

PNOC Exploration Corp. confirmed that Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Petronas), Malaysia's state-owned oil conglomerate, has signed a $12.5-million deal with PNOC and the Department of Energy for a petroleum exploration block in offshore Mindoro.

* * *

THE LISTING of 1,970 common shares that have been availed of and fully paid for under **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.**'s executive stock option plan was set for Jan. 12 (Wednesday). ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

Dream Cable wins case vs ABS-CBN

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Multi-Media System Inc. controlled by businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco," won a case against ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. before the Intellectual Property Office.

The IPO had given Dream, the brand name of Cojuangco's satellite TV company, the go-ahead to proceed with carrying the signal of ABS-CBN within its coverage.

The quasi-judicial government office said the satellite television company was simply complying with the National Telecommunication Commission's "must-carry rule."

The intellectual property agency said Dream did not record, make films, video tapes or engage in activities that would constitute any infringement of ABS-CBN's broadcast.

The agency's decision had reversed an earlier opinion of its legal affairs, which said that Dream had infringed on the copyright of ABS-CBN when it carried the signal of channels 2 and 23 on its satellite television service.

ABS-CBN and GMA Network Inc. had complained that Dream Cable's satellite network was undermining their regional operations.

Unlike other cable televisions that carry ABS-CBN's signal only in particular city or province, Dream Cable would transmit it nationwide. This practice, according to a source, affects regional broadcasting being pursued by the network giants.

The Philippine Cable Television Association welcomed the ruling, saying that the decision was consistent with the objective of giving the public wider access to sources of constructive information.

The "must-carry" rule, according to PCTA chair Manuel Dabao, favors broadcasting organizations as well as the public.

BPI chief says . . .

From page B1

Despite the more difficult environment seen this year, BPI expects a 5- to 10-percent growth in net profit this year over 2004. Montinola said the bank's core strategy would still hinge on asset quality, cost control, innovative technology and professionalism--the same values that had worked well for the bank throughout the years.

Montinola, who recently succeeded Xavier Loinaz as BPI chief, said the bank hoped to post a 5-10 percent growth in loan volumes this year despite projections of a moderate growth in credit demand.

It was estimated that BPI's loan volume had expanded by 4 percent and its return on equity hit 13 percent last year.

Montinola said BPI hoped to continue outperforming the local banking sector this year, but not at the expense of asset quality. BPI would also strive to be more "customer-oriented," he said.

"The growth drivers this year shall be consumer loans, fee-based income, asset management, credit cards and maybe a bit of ROPOAs (real and other properties owned and acquired) sales and investment banking," Montinola said.

"The question mark is SM E (small and medium enterprises) lending because we have to find out what the appetite is and how we're gonna go about it," he said.

SME lending is a new area for the bank, but eventually he said BPI wanted to devote a third of its total portfolio to this sector, with the remaining two-thirds split between consumer and corporate accounts.

PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION
9th Floor, Robinsons-Equitable Tower, ADB Ave. cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Center 1605, Pasig City
Tel. No. (632) 631-8734 Telefax: (632) 636-0802
E-mail Address: www.wesm.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY
to participate in the

TRIAL OPERATIONS PROGRAM

of the

PHILIPPINE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET
MARKET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The **PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION** (the "PEMC") is inviting all electric industry participants to participate in the **Trial Operations Program** for the **Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market Management System** (the "WESM-MMS").

The Trial Operations Program is a dry-run of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (the "WESM") to fully test the Market Management System in a live environment and to prepare participants before the commercial operation of the WESM. Program participants will have access to comprehensive training programs, on line assistance and will also be involved in the actual testing of the WESM-MMS thus gaining the experience and in-depth knowledge that will help ensure their future success in the market. The preparation for the WESM is at its final stages and feedback from Program participants will provide the PEMC with valuable insight and experience in working with the industry and its interaction with the market. As such, Program participants will be directly involved in the shaping of the future Philippine Electricity Industry and help ensure its long-term sustainability.

The Program is scheduled towards the end of the first quarter of 2005. Registration for participation in the Program begins on 17 January 2005.

Applicants who meet the mandatory requirements will be allowed full participation in the Program. Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be allowed to participate initially as observers until compliant.

Interested participants are may begin to submit expressions of interest to the **Market Operations Group**, Philippine Electricity Market Corporation, 9th Floor Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Facsimile (+632) 636-0802, E-mail registration@wesm.ph.

For further inquiries, please contact PEMC through **Engr. Edwin Mosa** at the above address or at telephone (+632) 631 8734.

Additional information on the Trial Operations Program is also available at the WESM website - www.wesm.ph.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Coffee exports up 130% in '04

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A COFFEE farm in Tagaytay City PDI PHOTO

THE COUNTRY'S coffee exports rose 130 percent to 1,703 metric tons in 2004 from 740 tons largely due to production cutbacks by traditional growers, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

This was based on preliminary data from International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency (Icoca), an attached agency of the DTI, which, however, was not able to provide the latest revenue figures. Icoca is expected to release the final report on coffee exports next month.

The DTI said the increase in the volume of coffee shipments could also be attributed to the department's heightened efforts to support exporters of processed food and beverages, as well as fruits and vegetables.

"The food sector ranked the second top export performer, next to wearables, among the top 10 priority sectors identified as major drivers of the country's export growth," the agency said.

As of the first eight months, coffee exports have reached $2.28 million, which was 52 percent higher than the total export target of $1.5 million for 2004.

In 2003, coffee export receipts reached $2.02 million, an increase of 76 percent from about $1.14 million in 2002.

The DTI said Philippine coffee exports were reaching a wider market due to the production cutbacks in traditional exporters like Brazil at a time when world prices were high.

In previous years, the combined coffee production of 45 countries posted a 14.5-percent decline to 102.5 million bags in 2003 from 119.95 million bags in 2002, according to the London-based International Coffee Organization.

The decrease resulted in an uptrend in world coffee prices, which benefited minor exporters like the Philippines, the DTI said.

The country's coffee exports—in the form of processed or instant coffee, roasted or ground coffee, and green beans—are shipped to Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Palau, Greece and Papua New Guinea.

Also, the DTI said the government had taken steps to foster growth in the local coffee industry amid the tendency of farmers to shift to more lucrative crops such as fruits and vegetables.

A portion of the revenues from increased coffee exports had been earmarked to fund projects that would help the industry gain technical competence and obtain certification for coffee farms, millers and roasters.

Chic Uniform, Inc.
WE DO ALL KINDS OF UNIFORMS FOR
OFFICES • SCHOOLS • FACTORIES • HOSPITALS
SECURITY GUARDS • NURSES • HOUSEKEEPERS
READY MADE SCRUB SUIT
Unit 27-Q Burgundy Corporate Tower 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
☎ 8437633 • 8437539 • 8437637 ☎

THE BEST JUST GOT BETTER!
Simply the most recommended accounting software for SME's
NEW PRODUCT!
GENERAL FEATURES
- VAT Enabled
- General Ledger
- Accounts Receivable / Payable
- Inventory & Services
- Project Costing
- Departmental Accounting (Pro Only)
- Purchase Orders, Sales Orders, Invoices
- Cheque Writing / Tracks Importation Costs
- Supports Multi Currencies (Basic: Dual Currency / Pro: Unlimited)
- Integrates with MS Word and Excel
- Includes Crystal Reports® for Unlimited Custom Reporting
- Customizable Screen Interface
- Password Security Levels to Control User Access
- Generates Full Time Audit Trail
- Stores 100 Years of Financial History (Pro only)
Used by More Than 400,000 Businesses Worldwide!
Basic: P14,500.00
Pro 1 User: P 21,500.00
Pro 5 Users: P 52,500.00
Order now and complete your accounting system with a FREE Payroll Pro software for 30 employees only!
(for more employees get a 20% discount on any Payroll Pro software version)
MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION
FOR SALES OR DEALERSHIP INQUIRIES CONTACT:
1004 B Summit One Office Tower, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
+63 2 533-1562 | 533-3612 | 533-6040
sales@mseedsystems.com www.mseedsystems.com

Power problems worry giant semiconductor firm

BAGUIO CITY—Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. has opened the year by inaugurating its $300-million expansion project, which has made the country's 2004 investment report a lot rosier.

But the country's investment picture for 2005 will be far more "anemic" than 2004, unless President Macapagal-Arroyo can fix the country's power situation, Tipi president Norberto Viera said.

"The inefficient and poor quality of electricity, and the rising power costs will be the last straw that will break the camel's back this year," he said.

Viera said businessmen were already expecting the first quarter of 2005 to be "very painful," but the "uncorrected" power rate increases would make or break the economy."

Ms Arroyo has been sidetracked by her housekeeping problems, as she tries to contain the P200-billion state deficit, he said.

Viera said Tipi's electricity expenses had jumped to $1.6 million a month, from a monthly bill of only $850,000. Efforts to negotiate its own power purchase arrangements for a low-speed bunker fuel plant have been stymied by the bureaucracy, he said.

Business has been leaving the country because of its high power costs, Viera said.

TIPI is building a three-story administration building here to allow more room for the expansion of its manufacturing operations.

Teresito Panga, administrator of the Baguio City Economic Zone, said the country's investment trend in the last two years showed a reliance on expansion activities rather than on new capital projects. About 90 percent of the expansion projects were documented by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

But Panga said new investments matched the number of expansion investments toward the end of 2004, bringing up 2004 national investment figures to P46 billion from the previous year's P28 billion.

Viera said the capital flight Peza had been studying for the last five years could be traced to firms that moved to China, where labor costs were low.

Toshiba is the latest foreign company that left the country, he said.

He said Tipi and other semiconductor firms have survived the combined onslaught of the gaping deficit, slowdown in global trade and power rate increases by expanding its product lines to cover goods that proved to be more marketable.

He said the country's technologically skilled workers remained Tipi's "secret weapons," as it ventured into "highly complex products such as open multimedia processors, which go into 3-generation telephones, DVD players and digital cameras."

Viera said Texas Instruments in Dallas had been sending "the high-end products" only to the Philippines because of the high skilled labor here.

The expansion should generate a 12-percent growth for Tipi, he said. The firm topped last year's top 1,000 Philippine corporations, on the strength of its export records. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dimsum n Dumplings
one of the best managed fastfood chains of 2003 & 2004
BE A DnD FRANCHISEE
and cash-in on our 14 year track record of profits.
Turn-key franchises start as low as P650,000.00
Kiosk and Restaurant sites available
• EDSA, MAKATI CITY
• C5, PASIG CITY
• MANDALUYONG CITY
• DASMARINAS CAVITE
• BAGUIO
• LA UNION
• SOUTHBOUND LANE SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
• CEBU CITY
• BACOLOD CITY
• ILOILO CITY
• CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Call us for more information.
PRIME PACIFIC CORPORATION | Tel 721-9695 to 98 | Fax - 722-6751 | Email : ppc accig@vasia.com dnd@vasia.com

4-year T-bond . . .

From page B1

worth of bids.

Mendiola said the Treasury was opening a tap facility through which banks, whose bids for the four-year debt paper were rejected, could still avail themselves of the T-bonds over the counter.

The treasury official said the government was looking at raising some P2 billion to P3 billion more from the opening of the tap facility, although it could offer as much as P10 billion. Using the tap facility, the Treasury is allowed to offer an amount that is equivalent to that of the scheduled borrowing through the regular auction.

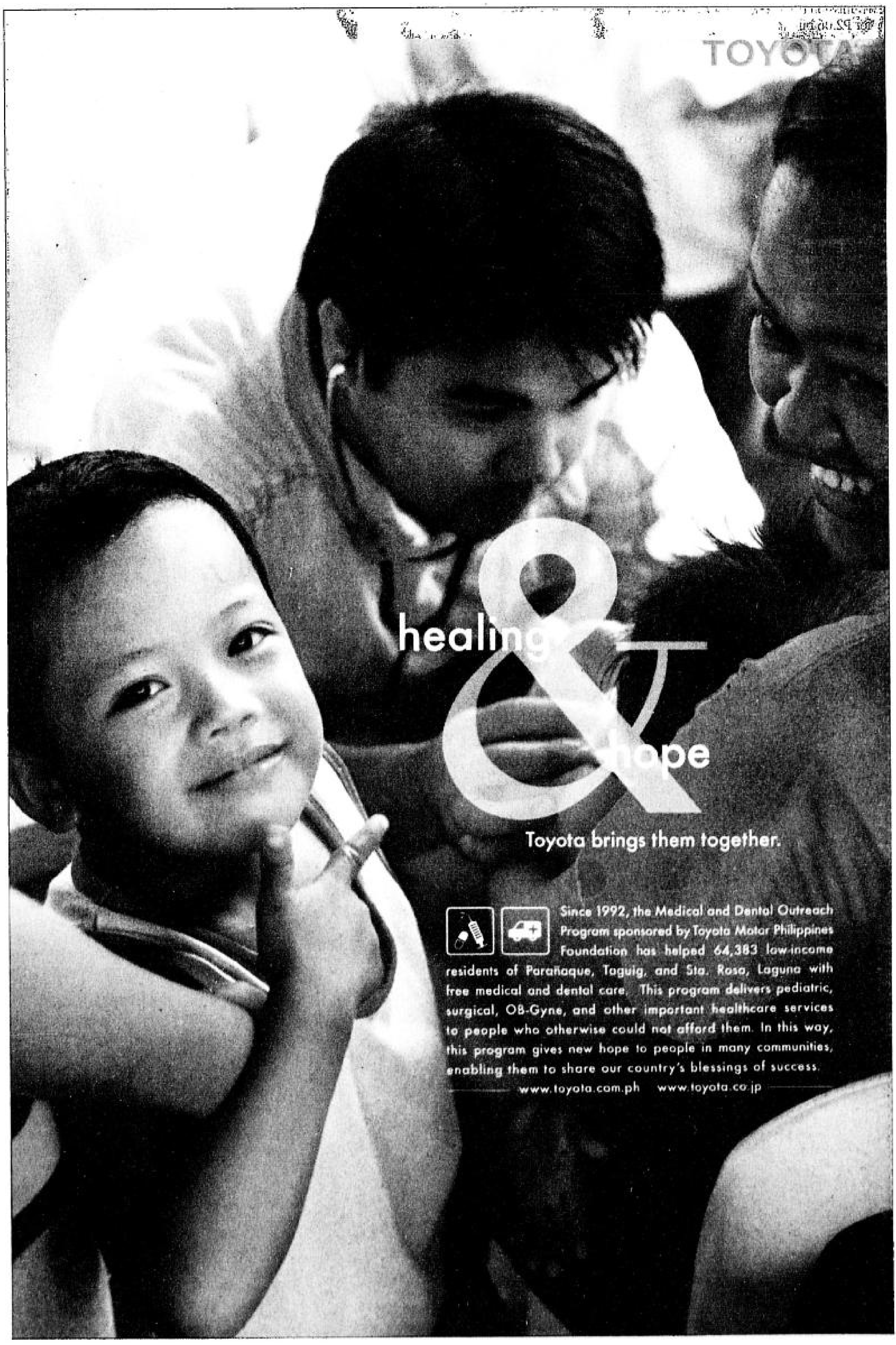
Mendiola said the Treasury was offering a lower yield of 11.969 percent to banks that would avail themselves of the four-year debt paper through the tap facility.

"It's the start of the year, everybody wants more supply (of investments), and since liquidity is still high, banks need to place (their excess funds) in government securities," Mendiola said.

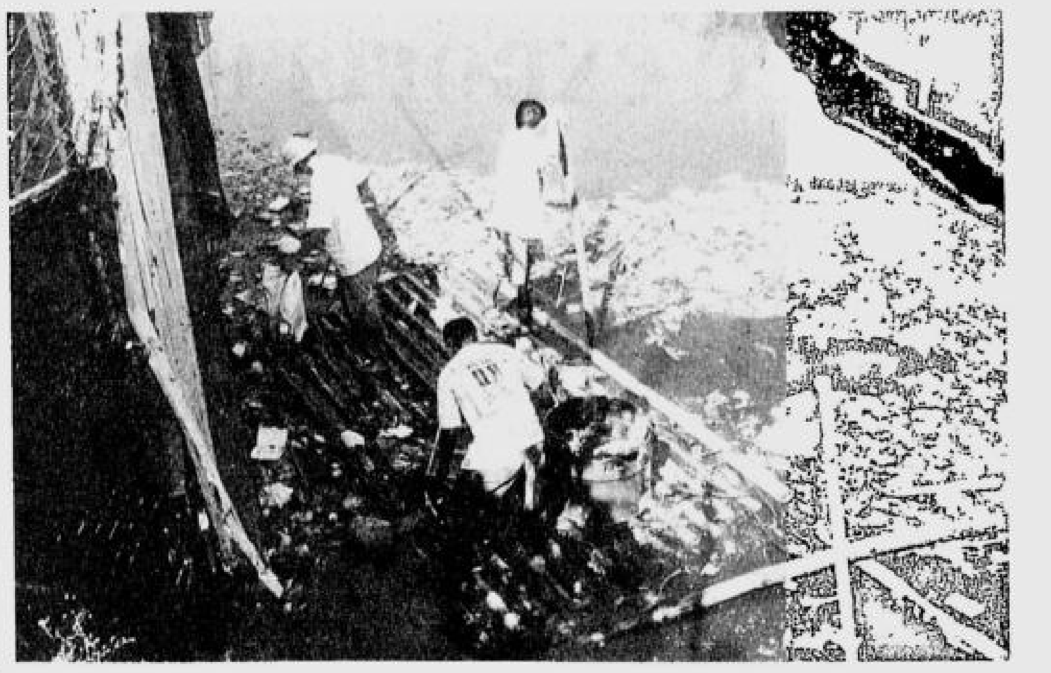
He said the increase in the rate for the four-year T-bond was a normal tendency during the start of a year as banks are still trying to position their investment options.

Last week, the rates for treasury bills, or short-term government securities, rose across all maturities, with the benchmark 91-day yield moving up by 8 basis points to 7.87 percent.

The Treasury said the increase in the rates of the short-term government securities was a manifestation banks were still trying to get a feel of the market after getting off from the holidays. Banks were factoring in talks of a possible rate increase by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and high inflation, which stood at a five-year high of 7.9 percent in December, it added.



Since 1992, the Medical and Dental Outreach Program sponsored by Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation has helped 64,383 low-income residents of Parañaque, Taguig, and Sta. Rosa, Laguna with free medical and dental care. This program delivers pediatric, surgical, OB-Gyne, and other important healthcare services to people who otherwise could not afford them. In this way, this program gives new hope to people in many communities, enabling them to share our country's blessings of success.
www.toyota.com.ph www.toyota.co.jp



VOLUNTEERS dredge out trash and flotsam clogging the Pasig River. Unilever has committed to help rehabilitate Laguna de Bay and the Pasig River.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Firm walks the talk in reviving RP lake

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CONCERTS, beauty pageants, primetime TV show sponsorships, radio programs, sports and cultural events, art and photo contests, outreach and barangay feeding programs, public health and education-related initiatives—the list of projects getting financial backing from Unilever Philippines brands gets longer each year.

But for 2005, there is one project that the consumer goods giant considers not just one but several cuts above the rest—the 10th summit of the Living Lakes global network which the country is hosting next May.

The international conference—with the theme "Responsible Stewardship by Lake Communities"—is billed as the Manila firm's biggest undertaking this year.

Living Lakes is part of Unilever's "long-term commitment to sustainable development and caring for the environment," said Howard D. Belton, Unilever Phils. chair and CEO.

The 77-year-old company's concern for the environment is "not just a stated corporate policy ... (but) an understanding that is inculcated in the hearts and minds of its employees," Belton said during a stakeholders conference at the Laguna Lake.

Help for Laguna Lake

Established in 1998 by the Germany-based Global Nature Fund, Living Lakes currently groups 24 environmentally troubled lakes and wetlands worldwide, including our very own Laguna de Bay.

The principal sponsor of this year's conference will get some backing from its parent companies in London and Rotterdam—Unilever NV and Unilever PLC—and other European business heavyweights like Daimler Chrysler, Lufthansa, T Mobile, Karcher, Ziemann, Natur Kosmos, Rohner and Kopf.

The firm may also expect help from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and the non-government Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, its fellow prime movers in the tripartite CLEAR, or Conservation of Laguna de Bay Environment and Resources.

As Living Lakes' global partner, Unilever "not only contributes critical funding to the global organization, but also supports partnership projects with individual lakes and wetlands through its local companies," said Ramon Gil Macapagal, Unilever Phils. general manager for corporate development.

Adding vitality to life

"But more than funding, Unilever contributes its management expertise in bringing people together—NGOs, local authorities, other businesses and networks, who may have much to offer as partners with a shared aim," Macapagal added.

The Unilever executive pointed out that the company has been walking the talk, "doing precisely what its mission statement says it is trying to do—adding vitality to life, meeting every day needs for nutrition, hygiene and personal care with brands that help people feel good, look good and get more out of life.

"At the core of this commitment is caring for the environment. We see this commitment as entirely consistent with the idea of sustainable development: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future."

The 90,000-hectare Laguna de Bay became the 18th Living Lakes member in 2001 during the body's 6th summit, held in Ulan Ude, Eastern Siberia.

Breakthrough

Its quest for membership began two years earlier during the Unilever SWIM conference in Liverpool, England, recalled Jika Mendoza-Dalupan, Unilever corporate relations and communications manager.

SWIM, or Sustainable Water-Integrated Catchment Management, is a set of principles that guide Unilever firms all over the world in assessing and implementing water projects.

During the 2000 Living Lakes meeting in Japan, Unilever formally endorsed Laguna de Bay's membership bid to the network.

The following year, the Philippine lake was admitted to the body by a unanimous vote—"a breakthrough for Laguna de Bay and a milestone for Philippine environmental history," Macapagal said.

Barely a year after becoming a Living Lakes member, Laguna de Bay was cited by the network as a "best practice example" of lake sustainability initiatives.

River of Life

Unilever, formerly called Philippine Refining Company, has also exerted efforts to save the Pasig River.

In the book, "Pasig: River of Life," the firm toasted the efforts of "various groups and individuals who continue to contribute to the rehabilitation" of what is now a biologically dead waterway.

Shortly after the Pasig River book was published, Unilever came out with the 162-page coffee table book "Laguna de Bay: The Living Lake."

Unilever, according to Belton, "has been an active partner of the government in the Pasig River rehabilitation efforts since the early 1990s."

"Unilever has been based on the banks of the Pasig for over 70 years," he said. "We see every day the state of the river, and it is part of our company vision to contribute to its rehabilitation."

The Englishman has had the "joy of seeing the River Thames change from smelly and polluted to clean and alive" over the decades. "The (London) river is a center for tourism and the riverbank is a highly attractive place to live and work. We can do the same thing for the Pasig."

Rehabilitating a biologically-dead waterway is no easy task, but not impossible, according to Belton.

"The enormity of the task of rehabilitating the river can be likened to the task of eating an elephant," he said.

Eating an elephant

"Now, how does one eat an elephant?," asked the Manila executive. "You simply cut it into bite-size pieces. It may take time but you'll accomplish the task slowly but surely as you invite more people to partake. This is our company's shared approach with our partners."

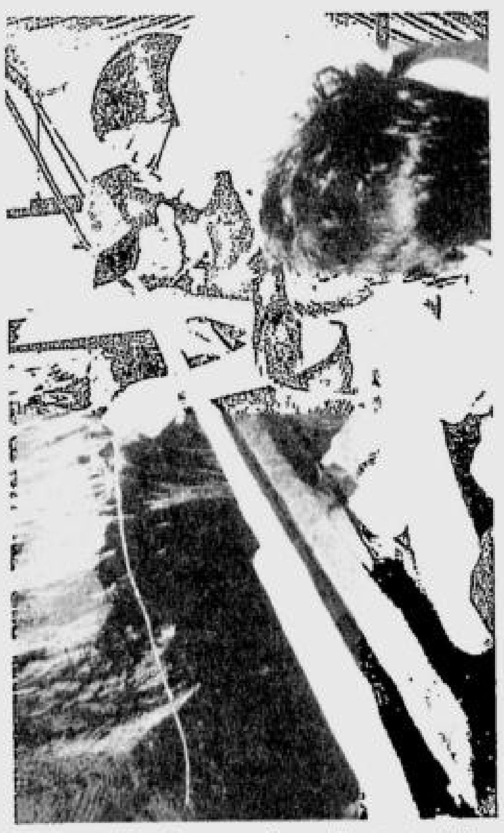
Belton wrote that public and private sector "efforts to rehabilitate the river have led to rather encouraging results.

"Although there is still a long way to go, these encouraging results support the long-term view that it can be done."

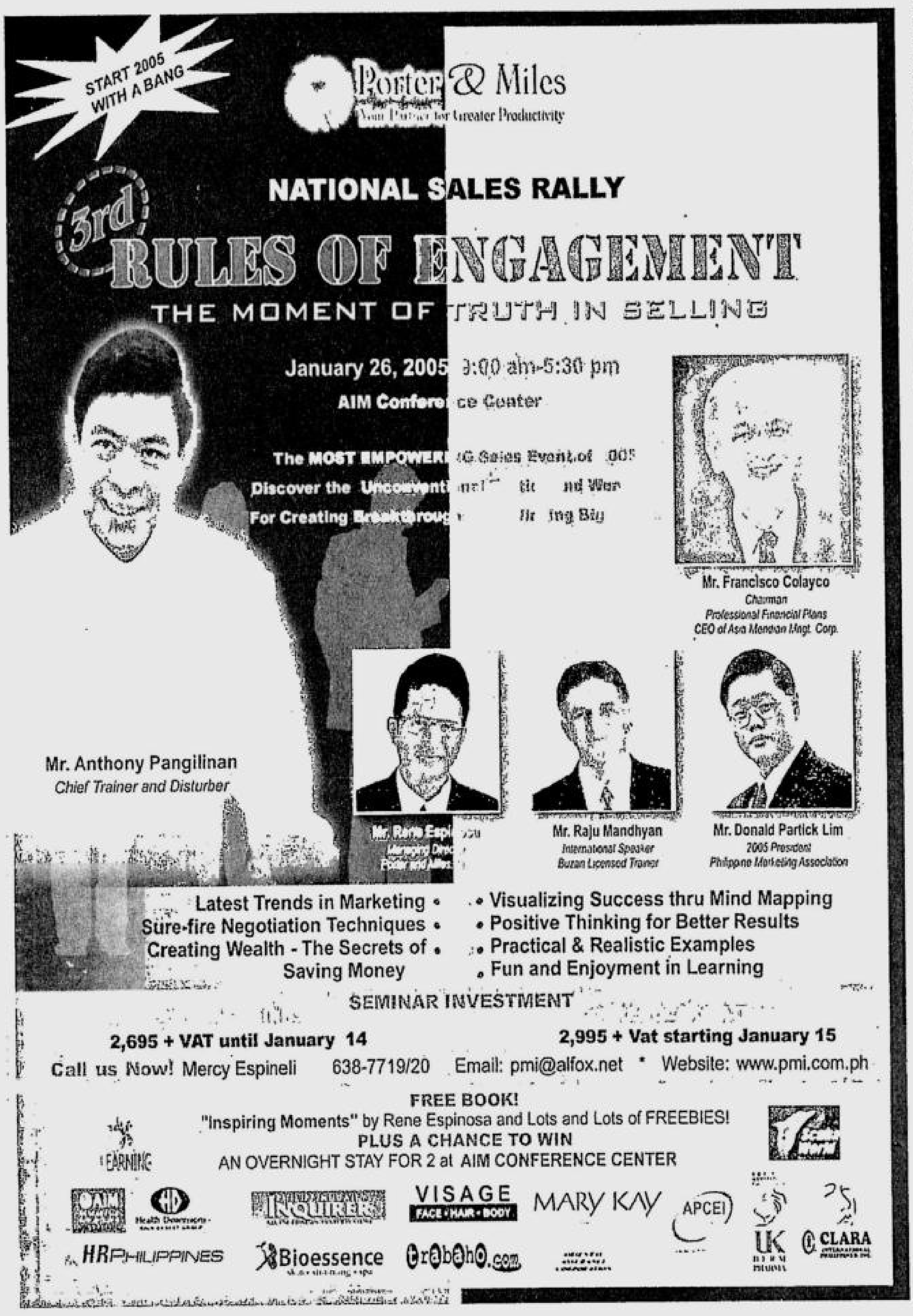
Belton also said that the United Nations Ave.-based firm had constructed a domestic waste water treatment plant which he described as the "first in Metro Manila."

"It is far larger than the industrial waste water treatment plant the company also has, driving the point that our personal consumption and use of water is much larger than that of our operations," Belton said.

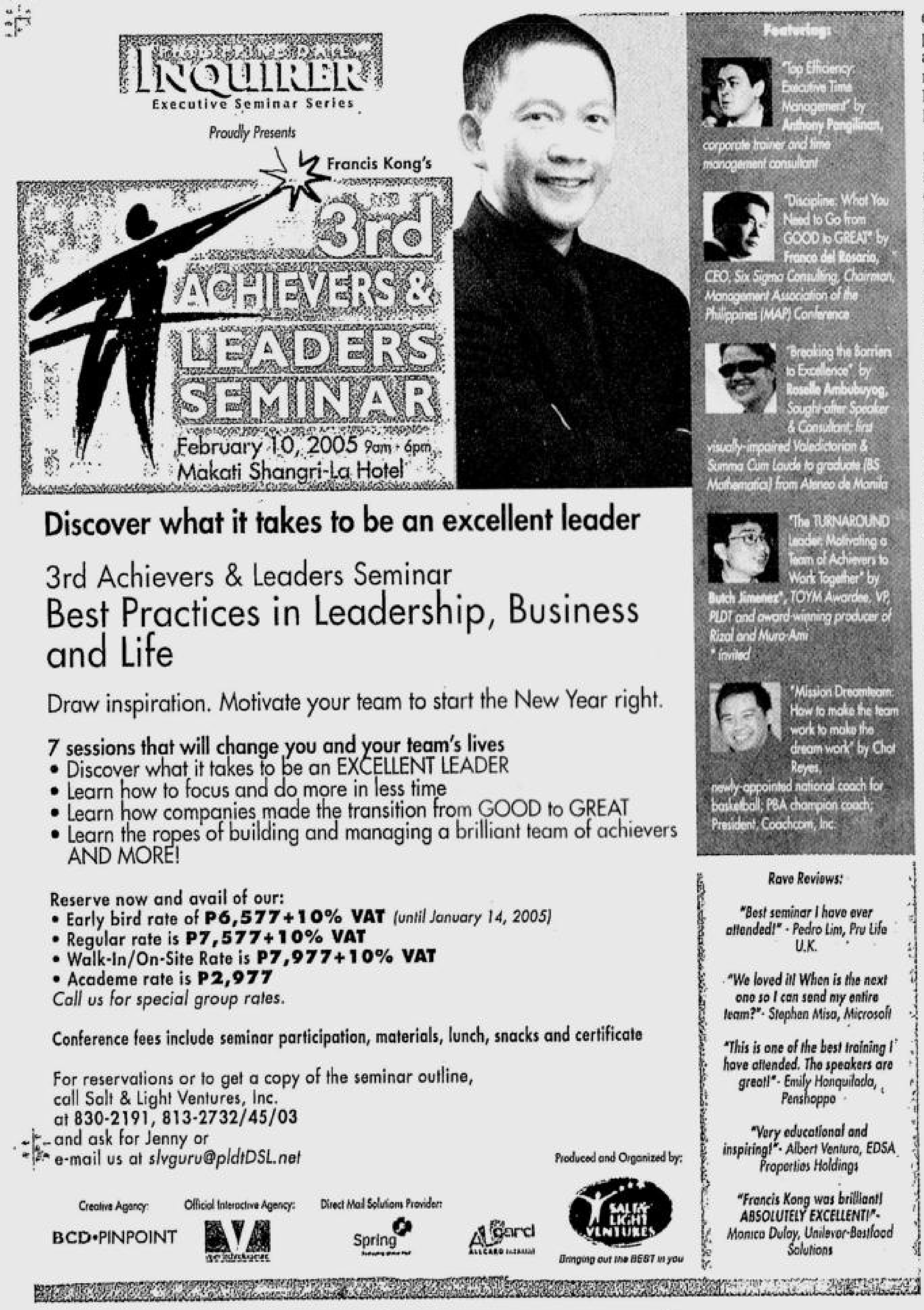
Unilever is the global leader in ice cream, tea, spreads and personal wash. It operates in more than 90 countries spanning every continent. Its brands are on sale in 70 other nations. Topselling Unilever brands include Surf, Close Up, Breeze, Lux, Rexona, Domex, Axe, Sunsilk, Cream Silk, Lifebuoy, Ponds, Vaseline and Selecta, among others.



COMPANY volunteers drop a line to test the waters of Laguna de Bay, which is on its way to recovery. The Philippines will host the 2005 summit of the Living Lakes global network which groups 35 environmentally troubled lakes worldwide. Unilever will sponsor the event.



START 2005 WITH A BANG
Porter & Miles
Your Partner for Greater Productivity
NATIONAL SALES RALLY
3rd RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IN SELLING
January 26, 2005 9:00 am-5:30 pm
AIM Conference Center
The MOST EMPOWERING Sales Event of 2005
Discover the Unconventi[illegible] and Way
For Creating Breakthroug[illegible] [illegible]ing Big
Mr. Francisco Colayco
Chairman
Professional Financial Plans
CEO of Asia Memoan Mngt. Corp.
Mr. Anthony Pangilinan
Chief Trainer and Disturber
Mr. Rene Espi[illegible]
Managing Direc[illegible]
Porter and Miles
Mr. Raju Mandhyan
International Speaker
Buzan Licensed Trainer
Mr. Donald Partick Lim
2005 President
Philippine Marketing Association
Latest Trends in Marketing •
Sure-fire Negotiation Techniques •
Creating Wealth - The Secrets of Saving Money •
• Visualizing Success thru Mind Mapping
• Positive Thinking for Better Results
• Practical & Realistic Examples
• Fun and Enjoyment in Learning
SEMINAR INVESTMENT
2,695 + VAT until January 14
2,995 + Vat starting January 15
Call us Now! Mercy Espineli 638-7719/20 Email: pmi@alfox.net * Website: www.pmi.com.ph
FREE BOOK!
"Inspiring Moments" by Rene Espinosa and Lots and Lots of FREEBIES!
PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN
AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR 2 at AIM CONFERENCE CENTER
LEARNING
VISAGE FACE • HAIR • BODY
MARY KAY
APCEI
UK
CLARA
HR PHILIPPINES
Bioessence
trabaho.com



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Executive Seminar Series
Proudly Presents
Francis Kong's
3rd ACHIEVERS & LEADERS SEMINAR
February 10, 2005 9am - 6pm
Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Featuring:
"Top Efficiency: Executive Time Management" by Anthony Pangilinan, corporate trainer and time management consultant
"Discipline: What You Need to Go from GOOD to GREAT" by Franco del Rosario, CEO, Six Sigma Consulting, Chairman, Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Conference
"Breaking the Barriers to Excellence" by Roselle Ambubuyog, Sought-after Speaker & Consultant; first visually-impaired Valedictorian & Summa Cum Laude to graduate (BS Mathematics) from Ateneo de Manila
"The TURNAROUND Leader: Motivating a Team of Achievers to Work Together" by Butch Jimenez*, TOYM Awardee, VP, PLDT and award-winning producer of Rizal and Muro-Ami
* invited
"Mission Dreamteam: How to make the team work to make the dream work" by Chot Reyes, newly-appointed national coach for basketball; PBA champion coach; President, Coachcom, Inc.
Discover what it takes to be an excellent leader
3rd Achievers & Leaders Seminar
Best Practices in Leadership, Business and Life
Draw inspiration. Motivate your team to start the New Year right.
7 sessions that will change you and your team's lives
• Discover what it takes to be an EXCELLENT LEADER
• Learn how to focus and do more in less time
• Learn how companies made the transition from GOOD to GREAT
• Learn the ropes of building and managing a brilliant team of achievers AND MORE!
Reserve now and avail of our:
• Early bird rate of P6,577+10% VAT (until January 14, 2005)
• Regular rate is P7,577+10% VAT
• Walk-In/On-Site Rate is P7,977+10% VAT
• Academe rate is P2,977
Call us for special group rates.
Conference fees include seminar participation, materials, lunch, snacks and certificate
For reservations or to get a copy of the seminar outline, call Salt & Light Ventures, Inc. at 830-2191, 813-2732/45/03 and ask for Jenny or e-mail us at slvguru@pldtDSL.net
Rave Reviews:
"Best seminar I have ever attended!" - Pedro Lim, Pru Life U.K.
"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team?" - Stephen Misa, Microsoft
"This is one of the best training I have attended. The speakers are great!" - Emily Honquilada, Penshoppe
"Very educational and inspiring!" - Albert Ventura, EDSA Properties Holdings
"Francis Kong was brilliant! ABSOLUTELY EXCELLENT!" - Monica Dulay, Unilever-Bestfood Solutions
Produced and Organized by:
SALT & LIGHT VENTURES
Bringing out the BEST in you
Creative Agency: BCD•PINPOINT
Official Interactive Agency:
Direct Mail Solutions Provider: Spring
Allcard

Mitsubishi in tie-up talks with Peugeot

TOKYO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. on Tuesday said it was in tie-up talks with French auto maker PSA Peugeot Citroen, but analysts say that won't be enough to boost the troubled Japanese car manufacturer's business.

Mitsubishi Motors, reeling from financial problems and a scandal over its cover-ups of defects, said it was studying the possibility of partnerships with the French maker and others to revitalize its business as soon as possible.

"It is true that Mitsubishi Motors is studying the possibility of a business tie-up with PSA Peugeot Citroen," company spokesman Junji Nishihata said. "(But) there are no concrete details decided at this point."

Media reported at the weekend that MMC had reached a basic agreement to provide Peugeot, Europe's second-biggest car maker, with some 40,000 vehicles annually.

An official at Peugeot's Japanese sales arm, Peugeot Japon, declined to comment.

A strategy of providing vehicles to other car makers is expected to form the centerpiece of MMC's revival plan, which will be unveiled by the end of this month, but analysts say limited production tie-ups would be disappointing.

"MMC certainly needs partners, as they will help raise its under-utilized production capacities, but that won't solve its fundamental problem of a sharp fall in sales," Nomura Securities analyst Shinya Naruse said. "A production supply agreement of some 40,000 cars a year will hardly bolster the business of a car maker producing 1.3 million cars a year globally."

Shares in Mitsubishi Motors closed up 4.69 percent at 134 yen, outperforming the Nikkei average's 0.93 percent gain.

MMC, Japan's only unprofitable auto maker, is struggling to improve its fortunes after former majority shareholder DaimlerChrysler AG gave up on its rehabilitation in April last year.

Its car sales dived 41 percent in 2004, but still show no sign of bottoming out.

Reuters

MITSUBISHI Motors Corporation Head of Overseas Operations Osamu Masuko speaks during media previews at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Mitsubishi, reeling from financial problems and a scandal over its cover-ups of defects, said it was studying the possibility of partnerships with the French maker and others to revitalize its business as soon as possible. AP

Oil dips to $45 as global supply outage looms

SINGAPORE—Oil prices eased to $45 a barrel on Tuesday, extending a profit-taking setback despite a looming cold spell in the eastern United States and global supply outages.

US light crude slid 28 cents to $45.05 a barrel in afternoon Asian dealing, following an intraday low of $44.95, as traders locked away more profits after the market hit a near six-week high of $47.30 on Monday evening.

"People are cautious, they are taking profits now," said Tetsu Emori, chief commodities strategist at Mitsui Bussan Futures in Tokyo. "They want to see what happens with the Opec meeting."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets again on Jan. 30 to discuss second-quarter production policy, with some members saying another cut might be necessary if US crude oil falls below $40 a barrel, effectively setting a higher bar for defending prices.

Prices fell as low as $40.25 in mid-December but have rallied since then as the cartel implemented its agreed 1 million barrel per day (bpd) supply cut from Jan. 1 and production problems in the US Gulf and Norway's North Sea cut 500,000 bpd of output.

The eastern United States should experience a colder February than normal, with the first sustained cold in the Northeast starting this weekend, private forecasters EarthSat said.

Worries that a colder-than-usual first quarter will boost homeowners' demand for heating oil, the region's main winter fuel, are supporting the energy complex, sending US heating oil to their highest level since Dec. 23. at $1.35 a gallon on Monday. It was trading at $1.2829 on Tuesday.

Unseasonably mild weather probably helped inventories narrow a 9 percent year-on-year deficit last week, with distillates stocks, which include heating oil, expected to have risen over the period, a Reuters poll of 10 analysts found on Monday.

Crude stockpiles were expected to have dipped by 1.3 million barrels, but should remain higher than last year.

Prices jumped on Monday after Iraqi oil officials said that sabotage ahead of the country's Jan. 30 elections had paralyzed oil operations in the north of the country, forcing a suspension in refining while export flows remained idle.

Supply worries were sharpened by news that top producer Saudi Arabia deepened its supply cutbacks to key Asian customers in Japan and South Korea for February. It will trim their supplies to 10 percent less than full contractual volumes versus an 8 percent cut in January.

Reuters

China economy grew over 9% in '04

BEIJING—China's economy grew more than 9 percent in 2004, helping to buoy tax revenues, the country's tax chief said on Tuesday, confirming official forecasts.

Fixed asset investment rose about 25 percent in 2004 while imports grew about 34 percent, Xie Xuren, head of the State Administration of Taxation, told a news conference.

"In 2004, GDP grew more than 9 percent," Xie said.

Tax revenue grew 25.7 percent in 2004 to a record 2.572 trillion yuan ($310.8 billion) thanks to the solid economic growth, Xie said, confirming data reported by state media.

The economy, which grew 9.1 percent in the year through the third quarter of 2004, expanded despite government steps to head off economic overheating.

"The fast tax revenue growth was a result of the relatively rapid economic growth and the sound profitability of enterprises," Xie said.

Government's efforts to crack down on tax evasion and close tax loopholes also helped boost revenue, he said.

Meanwhile, China is unlikely to extend a tax incentive for wheat purchasers it introduced last year, sending a signal that an expected bumper winter crop might limit the need for fresh imports, traders and analysts said.

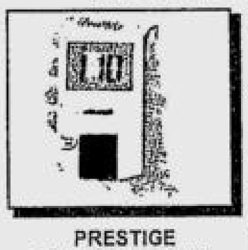
In addition, high freight rates and quality problems may also discourage imports, especially after large 2004 purchases replenished government grain reserves following years of decline, they said.

China, the world's top wheat producer and consumer, emerged as a major importer a year ago, with state-owned trader Cofco sealing deals to buy nearly 10 million tons from Australia, Canada, the United States and France.

Reuters

DOUBLE CHECK DIABETES
(SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY)
- Blood Glucose Monitoring System
- Reads MMOL/L or MG/DL
- Accepts Trade-in

PRESTIGE GLUCOSE METER
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor 45-636-3513
SM MANILA 5TH FLR. 484-1471
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr Bldg A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement [illegible]
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park [illegible]
CEBU 417-82-86
SM SOUTHMALL Basement [illegible]
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061



Trade cautious on tech issues; Asia shares rise

SINGAPORE—Tokyo shares hit a six-month high on Tuesday but trade elsewhere was cautious after US chip maker Advanced Micro Devices said revenues would miss forecasts, unnerving investors ahead of earnings from larger rival Intel.

The dollar eased against the euro as the market adopted a cautious tone ahead of US trade data on Wednesday. The US trade and budget deficits have been key factors behind the dollar's three-year decline.

Oil futures slipped to around $45.05 a barrel but were supported by global supply disruptions and forecasts of colder weather in the eastern United States.

Japan's Nikkei index closed up 0.9 percent at 11,539.99—its highest close since mid-July.

Chip stocks, such as Advantest Corp., led gains, shrugging off concerns over Intel's earnings later in the day to cheer the Nasdaq's first gain in 2005.

"Seems like investors are betting that Intel"s earnings, even if they are bad, will not send the Nasdaq much lower after its recent losses," said Koichi Seki at Chuo Securities. "In fact, if Intel says anything good then that will likely help US tech stocks snap out of their recent bearish period."

Retailers also helped lift Tokyo shares after posting solid earnings on Friday. Japan was closed on Monday for a holiday.

MSCI's broadest index of shares elsewhere in the Asia Pacific had risen half a percent by 0615 GMT.

Shares rose 1.2 percent in South Korea, led by a 7-percent jump in LG.Philips LCD Co. Ltd. after media reported a local research firm predicted prices of 17-inch LCD panels for computer monitors would hit bottom in February.

Shares rose 0.6 percent in Taiwan and 0.2 percent in Singapore, while benchmarks were flat in Australia and Hong Kong.

Some Asian chip stocks fell after Advanced Micro said late on Monday tough competition in the memory chip market would push its fourth-quarter revenue below market estimates, sending its shares down 7.9 percent in after-hours trade.

The news came after Europe's largest chip maker, STMicroelectronics NV, said it expected profit margins to fall below its prior target due to a weaker US dollar.

Contract chip maker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. fell 0.6 percent and smaller rival United Microelectronics Corp. dropped one percent.

But Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's top maker of memory chips, erased early losses to close up 0.9 percent in South Korea ahead of its earnings report on Friday.

The euro was at $1.3131 up from $1.3073 in New York after Tokyo dealers returned after a national holiday.

The dollar stood around 103.92 yen down 0.4 percent from 104.34 in late US trading.

Investors will focus on earnings from Intel on Tuesday, Apple Computer on Wednesday and Sun Microsystems on Thursday.

Reuters

PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT
✓ 9% interest p.a. - GUARANTEED
✓ No withholding tax
✓ Only P50,000 minimum deposit
✓ 5 - year Time Deposit
✓ Monthly crediting of interest
Visit any of our 139 PSBank branches nationwide.
BancNet Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00.
Quoted rate is for a limited time only and is subject to change without prior notice.

IBM to give away 500 US patents

SAN FRANCISCO—United States patent leader IBM on Monday said it would donate 500 patents for free use by software developers, marking a major shift of intellectual property strategy for the world's top computer maker and a challenge to the high-tech industry.

Jim Stallings, IBM's vice president in charge of intellectual property, said in an interview that the move was meant to encourage other companies to unlock patent portfolios in order to spur technological innovation.

"This represents by far the largest pledge of patents in US history," IBM said in a statement to be issued on Tuesday.

You can use them and grow and innovate (and) ... to build something new," Stallings said in remarks aimed at developers.

As the leading provider of computer services, IBM also stands to benefit from helping other companies make use of new technology developed under the open licensing program.

The policy change for IBM, which over the past decade has stood out as a leader among global companies seeking to reap greater profits from its patent portfolio, allows the company to continue to receive royalties from thousands of patents it holds on everything from microchips to supercomputers.

The donation coincides with an announcement by the US Patent and Trademark Office that IBM topped the list of annual patent recipients for the 12th straight year, with 3,248 patents—or 1,314 more patents than No. 2 ranked Matsushita of Japan, known for its Panasonic brand.

The IBM move is meant to encourage other patent holders to donate their own intellectual property in order to form what the company refers to as a "patent commons," a modern twist on shared public lands set aside under traditional laws.

The 500 patents cover areas such as storage management, simultaneous multiprocessing, image processing, database management, networking and e-commerce, Stallings said.

Reuters

Prestige Cars BMW
Sheer Driving Pleasure

The ultimate drive may be driven away.
Experience it at **Prestige Cars BMW**.

BMW Certified Pre-Owned
Sometimes brand is more important than new.

Only a BMW provides pure driving pleasure. And only **BMW Certified Pre-Owned** cars guarantee the same reliability and driving pleasure as a new one because they pass through a strict selection process. Each **BMW Certified Pre-Owned** car listed:

- Is no more than 6 years old with a mileage of less than 120,000 kilometers
- Has been examined to have no history of any major accident
- Passed through a comprehensive 100-point checklist
- Is guaranteed to have only genuine BMW parts
- Has a full 12-month or 20,000 kilometer warranty

Enjoy discounts and rebates at premium establishments as a Prestige Club BMW member.

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
CPO Direct Line (02) 812 7950 **Trunkline** (02) 892 8127 to 29

BMW Certified Pre-Owned:

BMW 735 Li
2004 Sterling Gray,
2,651km
P6,500,000

BMW X5 3.0d Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire, 3,491km, P5,100,000
BMW X3 3.0i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 5,997km, P3,860,000
BMW 530d Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire, 1,120km, P4,650,000
BMW 530d Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 2,005km, P4,200,000
BMW 325i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 15,035km, P2,500,000
BMW 318i M Sport 2004 Titanium Silver, 4,971km, P2,300,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Steel Gray, 8,410km, P2,200,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire, 5,321km, P2,200,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 11,623km, P2,050,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Orient Blue, 12,633km, P2,050,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Orient Blue, 8,985km, P2,050,000
BMW 318i M Sport 2003 Topaz Blue, 3,226km, P1,975,000
BMW 316i 2004 Titanium Silver, 9,222km, P1,450,000
BMW 316i 2003 Titanium Silver, 18,296km, P1,350,000

Other cars available:

BMW 523i 1997 Aspen Silver, 62,253km, P1,300,000
BMW 525iA 1991 Calypso Red, 43,046km, P480,000
BMW 320iA 1998 Calypso Red, 89,216km, P750,000
BMW 320iA 1997 Calypso Red, 31,005km, P720,000
BMW 320iA 1997 Calypso Red, 67,996km, P720,000
BMW 320iA 1997 Arktis Silver, 69,548km, P720,000
BMW 320iA 1997 Cosmos Black, 134,362km, P690,000
BMW 316i 1997 Cosmos Black, 64,763km, P620,000
BMW 316i 1996 Cosmos Black, 39,003km, P600,000
BMW 316i 1996 Alpine White, 101,173km, P500,000

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978008 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao,
Q. C. back of
Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

HEALTH/FITNESS

MEDTECH XRAYTECH MIF 8255641 8256486 PQUE

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

AKHIN THAI MASGE (02)8347357

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

CANDY MASSAGE 897-1506

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MASSAGE 8545340 WARREN

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

RICA REFLEX 09196174327

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

Facial / Massage Ofc 534-4003

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

HOUSEHOLD

EFFICIENT MAIDS
PROV'L. & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS SCREENED W/REF. NBI POL. CLEAR.
873-7055•873-5062•873-7057

NEWLY ARRIVED PROVINCIAL MAIDS MIDWIFE NURSE YAYA COOK LABA H'GIRL/BOY DRIVER SCREENED W/CLEAR. CALL "JOY" 872-2792•872-0265•873-5271

APPLIANCE REPAIR

Laundry Machines Refs
Fast Service T-493-1121

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

AA Maid Yaya w/NBI 4547542

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

Good Maid Yaya •896-7402•

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

MAIDS w/ NBI Ref .4392490

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC
SINCE 1948 T:7312672

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maids Yaya Driver 7572089

Yaya H'Maid Cook 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

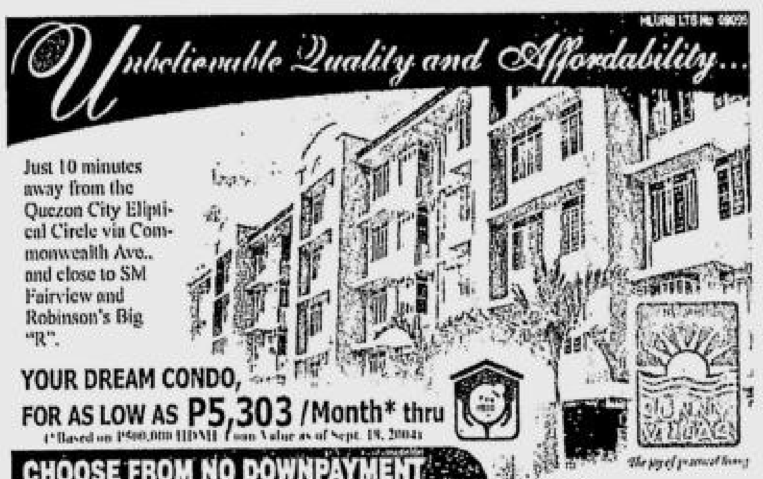
L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HLURB LTS No 09095

Unbelievable Quality and Affordability...



Just 10 minutes away from the Quezon City Elliptical Circle via Commonwealth Ave., and close to SM Fairview and Robinson's Big "R".

YOUR DREAM CONDO,
FOR AS LOW AS P5,303 /Month* thru
(*Based on P500,000 HDMF Loan Value as of Sept. 18, 2004)

CHOOSE FROM NO DOWNPAYMENT OR LOW AMMORTIZATION PLAN!

For Inquiries please call our Lead Marketing Agents
Reach Out Realty: 983-1804 • Forte Realty: 830-0372
Concorde Property: 427-7720 • Welcome Realty: [illegible]
Boomland Realty: 817-9680 Tel. No.: 812-PPHC (7742) or Text: 0917-812-PPHC(7742)

The joy of practical living

PHINMA
PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.
The Leader in Affordable Medium-Rise Housing in Metro Manila

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

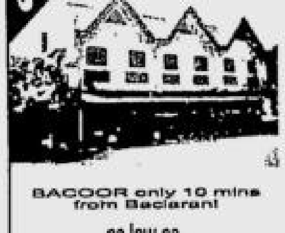
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

RESIDENTIAL UNITS FOR SALE
OR LEASE TO OWN
1,2,3 BEDROOM AND PENTHOUSE AVAILABLE
IN-HOUSE OR BANK FINANCING UP TO 10 YRS.
AGENTS/BROKERS ARE WELCOME
CALL:
910-0372 / 687-2363 / 631-3929
#15 J. ESCRIVA DRIVE, ORTIGAS, PASIG CITY

ASTORIA PLAZA

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES



BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!
as low as
P4,100/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

as low as P700T
Min. 15% D/P
15% 2nd REM
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to "Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
Marketing Sales Ofc.
531-0395 * 531-1384
(0920) RSG HOME
(0920) 910 0000
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.gueventhomes.com
Other sites available
Cainta, Baguio, QC

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

P1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
LAS PINAS or BACOOR
Only P5,000 to reserve
No loan requirement
• 873-59-49 • 874-0487 •

MALABON

Tugatog 165m² 3.5M 7227543

MAKATI

MGLLANES 3BR+DEN 8885608

MANILA

1129 SQM APACIBLE COR AGONCILLO T8885608

SAN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Rush Sale West GH 2Stry
534-6610 Jojo

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

POUE 180M² 8M NEG. 4BR 5TB RUFTOP GRG. 2MAIDS RM. CALL 09209202839

Sunvalley 300 LA 400 FA 2sty Neg P3.8M 8509507

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest 1 Batasan Hills P3.8M-6M • CP-09178997547

New Intramuros VIII QC
9510720 / 09179874537 Rush

•Sikatuna Vil. #81 Mahlyaln 9210255 9219967 9209822

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

Brookside Cainta 278m² 4br 2tb w/Grge 09173600948 • 09177870627

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

Bonaventure nr. CT Hall 2BRs 65sqm w/ pkg. security P2M 8072666

CTLand8 Gil Puyat Studio furn P1.2M neg 8509507

MAKATI CONDO RENT/SALE
410-8395 / 0919-8504468

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/mds rm/1-2grge/dock P3.610M up 8903461

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 297 SQM 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite) DESIGNER CONDO 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT GLORIA AT 0920-9071230 OR 899-3211

MANILA

1BR nr Lasalle taft w/ parking 40sqm neg'ble semi-furn 8509507

INVESTMENT PROP - Nr UST 250 sqm 5 Drs 8M 6341212

MANDALUYONG

CITYLAND SHAW 1BR FRONT SHANG P2.1M 09175213838

CONDO,BNEW, RFO09192189817

PASIG

ParcRoyale 1BR 3.1M neg 4121825

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

★NICE THSE ★
P2.0M LA78 FA95 Thru Pagibig Call 6438927• 09173312287

RENT TO OWN!
CONDO nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
15K monthly & 45K DP
Anne • (0920) 236-0929

QUEZON CITY

2BR/1TB New Mla vicinity P3.3M 7001393 / 09178387820

7.5M 1 Lafayet FA119sq.m 1Prk Call 634-1212

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA LA116 FA236 8M 634-1212

CUBAO P1.5M Flexible Terms Offsetting OK 09178348080

Luxurious Low 500T-12M Furn 9415641/0927-3925928

RIZAL

CAINTA / ANTIPOLO Thse
2BR FA50 nice P1.1M-1.5M
Pglbig/Inhse/Bank 0920-9115081

TAGUIG

PACIFIC TWR 23m² Rush!
w/income embasy 09189392979

FACTORY/WHSE

Pasig FA383@ P130/m² 6438927

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

BELAIR 3BR+DEN
18 LEO T 8885608

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Boni 3BR 2TB 2CG 1Mds Rm FF 25Tneg 0918-9421534

MARIKINA

House For Rent 3BR 2TB / Garage Vista Valley Call 9413237

QUEZON CITY

Grnmeadows Renov 3BR Den big grdn Bnew 4TB 4121825

PROJ4 2STY 1BR 1GRG P8K T4392627 09197213078

CONDO/TWNHSE

BICUTAN OFFICE WAREHOUSE 700 SQM P65K 5473472/71

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

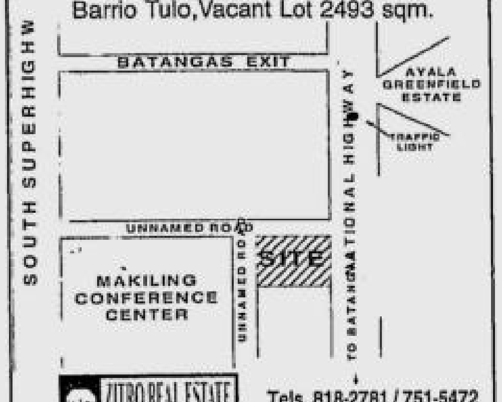
LOT

LAGUNA

LOT

LAGUNA

PRIME LOCATION
CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Along National Highway
Barrio Tulo,Vacant Lot 2493 sqm.



ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels. 818-2781 / 751-5472
Cell no. 0919-6745430

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MAKATI CONDO OFC
RENTSALE 09189392979

MANILA

1BRROBINSON FAURA 5642622

QUEZON CITY

T'HSE 4BR 4TB w/Attic
2CGrg Bellevue Subd. nr. Grace Christian H.S. Ofc Hr 374-8832

APARTMENT

MANILA

561-0960 0920-4136412 AJ 5,500 - 7,000 New Built House

MANDALUYONG

Nr Mall Sfurn 10.5T 5315809

QUEZON CITY

2STRY; 2BDRMS; GARAGE NR ABC5 NOVALICHES CALL 7497572 7162007 09195945702 TESS

BNEW studio PROJ.2
4342604 / 0919-2876641

ROOM & BOARD

Chin Gen Area 7836781

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Mkt.Condo M/F Nice/Prkg 8979417

P200! Sucat Pque 8275345

REVIEWEES Only
Nr Review Ctrs Newly Renovated
T-4934748 / 4938486

BEDSPACE

Male 1.5 Pasay 8315026

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 62/148/185m²/8903461 loc. 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

Qpo Coml Sp w/Mezz 8906374

SHARE OFFICE SPACE PROJ4 P3K T4392827 09197213878

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7267989

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MALATE, MANILA
1,2,3 BR ; 3 YRS TO PAY
0 INT. CALL 0918-9132396

MITSUBISHI

02 Adv SS fld 495T 7211877

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

03Lncr Invecsll 480T 7211877

Lancer EL P150T 09104148753

NISSAN

00 Nissan Sentra GTS Low Mileage 0917-6297999

97 Cefiro A/T P280T 09177488929

TOYOTA

01REVO GSX A/T 490T 7211877

'03 Prado 2.3M 0917-9526371

RUSH! 94 GLI MT CASA MNTND ALL ORIG 215T T8819584

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Town-Lite-Hi-Ace
Delica Serena etc 7127539

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE•STAREX
L300•CRV•REVO
HONDA•VIOS•ALTIS•LYNX•CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 7262989

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 6870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T New Compl. Sr Impld 7767507

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

EDUC PALN 2528373/2557990

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL
w/Full Guarantee T721-37-36

WANTED TO BUY

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Dog Food Warehouse Sale!!!
Up to 25% off!

Thrifty adult dog food
Thrifty Puppy food

Hurry limited stocks only.
First come first serve.

Free delivery within Metro Manila
for volume orders.

Cash purchases only.

If interested pls. call:
Filventure Industries
Corporation
Tel. 9274181, 9281991

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
LICENSED PHARMACIST
- SHOULD HAVE GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- FULL TIME JOB ONLY

☎ • 910-2001
• 633-5254 FAX

URGENTLY NEEDED
Birthday & Wedding Cake Decorator
Single, with knowledge of Fondant making
send resume at:
MICHELLE'S CAKES & PASTRIES
Balibago Commercial Complex
Sta. Rosa, Laguna or call Suzette 0915-5743691

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY
JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09163422208 • 09155547779

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE ORIGINAL DOLOR'S KAKANIN OF MALABON HAS NOW A MAKATI OUTLET ! FOR ORDERS AND INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 412-0617 and 282-3230

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc.
Pob. Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of JULY '04 on JAN. 22, '05 10am - *Lanuza & Sons*
(PDI - JANUARY 12, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Plate Nos. TWU 414 in the name of Gemina L. Fontillas was lost on January 10, 2005.
PDI-January 12, 2005

Notice is given the loss of 15772 UBP 4 shares with Cert Nos. 097063 / 14503 / 73375 / 79449 issued to RENE R. CRUZ. If no contest receive new certificate will be issued
(PDI - Jan. 12, 19 & 26, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d bisnez 0917-7499447

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d biznz 09209112910

RTW Consign 09167940002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

DRIVER, Stay-In, 10 Yrs. Exp., Police & Brgy. Clearance 724-9330 724-9328

Personal Driver/Asst.
Below 30 yrs old Report Rm 303 100 F Manalo St Cubao 9-12am thurs Oly

FEMALE

Skin Clinic in Pampanga in need of:
Scrubber/Esthetician/Facialist
(F) doctor w/ Derma background
Cashier/Recepcionist/Janitress
Nurse / PT with or without exp. 02 4301440' 02 9267260' 02 4006181

SKIN CLINIC in need Female Doctor w/ Derma background Call 02 430-1440 / 02 926-7260 / 02 400-6181

MALE/FEMALE

DRCT HIRING OFC MKTG STF CALL 09183922334 AIRA

Intl Food Franchise, SERVICE CREW - 20 to 25 yrs old, Exp. in Cashiering, Food Handling, Coll. Graduate • 498-0205 / 23

Medical Sales Executive 25-35 yrs old presenatable & pleasing personality good in oral and written communication. Attractive Compensation Awaits Qualified Applicants Send Resume' to Personnel Officer PO BOX 4047 Manila

SALES STAFF/PRINTER
18-30yo, Coll. Lev, Computer Lit. Good Salesperson, 636-3006 • 636-1367 • Amaly / Star / Norma

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market ONLINE

'Developing The Leader Within You' Workshop

WHERE most corporate training focuses on Job Knowledge and Management Skills, Network TwentyOne's Developing The Leader Within You workshop targets the practices and predictable behaviors of great leadership. It is an assimilation of proven course content from best-selling author and renowned leadership expert John C. Maxwell. Unpack the meaning of "values based" leadership and the power of leading others according to their values. Developing The Leader Within You is a chance to see what's happening "under the hood" through a workshop designed to be a dashboard giving you feedback on your existing leadership. For more information, please contact Benji, Baby and Regie of Network TwentyOne at 433-0021, 434-3678 ext. 100, 104 and 107. Network TwentyOne is licensed by Maximum Impact, a John C. Maxwell company.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF VINZONS, (Camarines Norte), INC.

1. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Vinzons (Camarines Norte), Inc. (RBVI) on Wednesday, **January 12, 2005**.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the closed RBVI, the designated payoff site. PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank from **January 12 to 21, 2005** to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours from Monday to Friday.

   After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

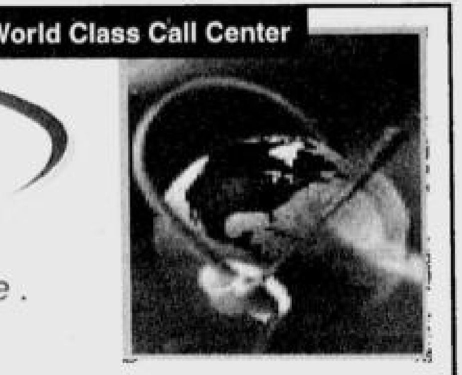
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Vinzons (Camarines Norte), Inc. is **January 6, 2007**. After **January 6, 2007**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Jan. 12 & 13, 2005)


World Class Call Center

Connect2

World Class Customer Care.

Connect2, Inc., a leading provider of customer care solutions, announces its opening for the following positions:

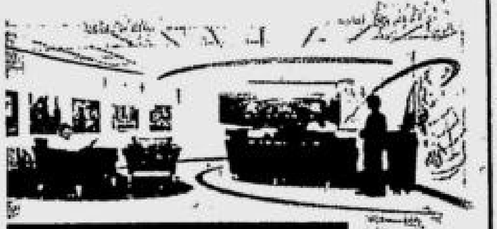
- **Trainor (with call center experience)**
- **Customer Service Representatives**

World Class Employees

Be part of a world-class company!

Submit your resumé with 2x2 picture to:

**HR Department, 8th Floor Net One Center
26th St., cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent, Parkwest
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk line: 811-7400
recruitment@connect2inc.com
www.connect2inc.com**


World Class Facilities

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region IX – Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 9911828, (062) 9911789, Fax No. (062) 9911339

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) in Region IX, with official address at Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City is inviting all interested shipping companies/ship owners/operators who are registered/licensed with MARINA to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hiring of vessels for voyages charter in the dispersal of NFA stocks from Port of Zamboanga City to the provinces of Region IX and the ARMM provinces of Basilan, Sulo & Tawi-Tawi, as follows:

Destination (Port/Province)	Max. Quantity (in bags of 50 kg)	Freight Rate per Bag of 50 kg (P)	Approved Budget (P)
Jolo Port, Sulu	15,000	16.00	240,000.00
Bongao Port, Tawi-Tawi	40,000	20.00	800,000.00
Pagadian Port, Zambo. del Sur	200,000	17.00	3,400,000.00
Palid Wharf, Ipil, Zambo. Sibugay	90,000	15.00	1,350,000.00
Malangas, Wharf, Zambo. Sibugay	20,000	16.00	320,000.00
Lamao Wharf, Liloy, ZDN	50,000	17.00	850,000.00
Pulawan Wharf, Dapitan City	120,000	18.00	2,160,000.00
Isabela Port, Basilan	145,000	10.00	1,450,000.00
Siocon Port, ZDN	30,000	8.00	240,000.00

Schedule of bidding activities:

Particulars	Date/Time
• Issuance of application forms for eligiblity and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & issuance of bid forms	January 28 & 31, 2005/ 8 am-4 pm
• Pre-Bid Conference	February 4, 2005 / 9:00 am
• Submission and opening of bids	February 18, 2005 / 2:00 pm

All shipping operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent to participate and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 to NFA-BAC, Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated above.

Interested bidders who are not NFA Accredited Shipping Operators and/or whose Registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA, Region IX not later than January 25, 2005.

The venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Bidding Proper will be at NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security, bidding procedures and evaluation up to awarding shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA**
OIC-Office of ARD, and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI–Jan. 12 & 17, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MANILA 1099

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that printed copies of Revision Order (RO) 8, 9, 10, 11 - 2004 supplement and for reference containing list of transaction value of goods generally described as:

TRUCK TIRES, PASSENGER TIRES, TAPIOCA/CASSAVA STARCH, SODIUM HYDROXIDE, TETRASODIUM PYROPHOSPHATE, CAUSTIC SODA FLAKES, SODIUM TRIPOLYPHOSPHATE, PVC HOMOPOLYMERS, VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER, PLYWOOD & BLOCKBOARD

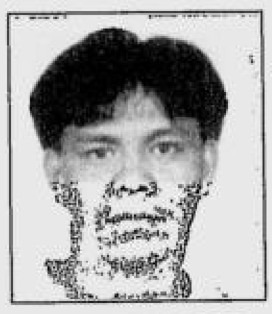
are available to all interested parties at the Bureau of Customs Printing Office, Office of the Commissioner, Port Area, Manila. Details are verifiable at the Valuation and Classification Division (VCD) of this Bureau. For other information, please get in touch with the VCD at telephone number 527-45-49.

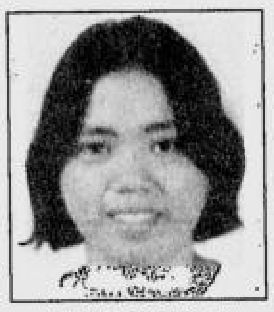
January 10, 2005, Manila

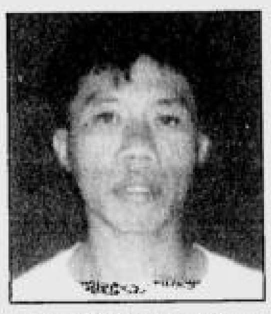
GEORGE M. JEREOS
Commissioner
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

(PDI – January 12, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC


VICTOR PALIGSA


LENY PALIGSA


TIBURCIO ARDIENTE

The public is informed that **Victor Paligsa**, **Leny Paligsa** & **Tiburcio Ardiente** are no longer connected with CITRA MINA SEAFOOD CORPORATION and warrants of arrest were issued against these persons in Criminal Cases before the Branch 95 of the Regional Trial Court of Palawan. Any information leading to their arrest shall be kept confidential. Please call 048-434-7508.

(PDI–Jan. 12, 2005)

VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The *Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.*, a Manila-based non government organization (with regional offices in Batangas, Bacolod, Davao and Matnog), that works for the protection and development of marginalized migrants especially domestic workers, trafficked women and children is urgently in need of the following:

(1) REGIONAL COORDINATOR (Davao)

Qualifications:
- College graduate
- Has at least 5 years experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children/s rights, child labor or women's welfare
- Has held a supervisorial/managerial position in the past jobs
- Has the ability to lead and work with a team
- Good in oral and written communications
- Good in project reporting and proposal writing
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with children

(2) LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS (Davao)

Qualifications:
- Graduate of social work
- Experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children's rights, child labor or women's welfare is an advantage
- Extensive experience in case management and handling of children in distress
- Has the ability to work with a team
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with children
- Willing to work stay-in

(1) PUBLICATIONS OFFICER (to be based in Manila)

Qualifications:
- Bachelor degree, preferably in Mass Communications, Creative Writing or other Social Sciences courses
- With initial experience in managing publications such as newsletters, periodicals, journals, etc.
- Preferably with extensive experiences in developmental work, especially with children's and women issues
- Must be computer literate and proficient in Pagemaker or other layouting softwares
- Website design skill is an advantage
- International networking and advocacy background will be highly preferred
- Able to meet deadlines and willing to travel in regional in regional project areas
- Team-worker and can perform multiple tasks with minimum supervision
- Sensitive to the best interest of exploited women and children

Interested applicants may apply personally and bring with them their application letter, together with comprehensive resumé and other credentials. They may also fax, mail, or e-mail their application directly to the:

The Executive Director
Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.
#2873 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila
Tel. Nos.: (02) 562-7821; 562-7810
Telefax: (02) 563-4514
E-mails: admin@visayanforum.org
visforum@pldtdsl.net

Note: Only qualified applicants would be notified. Deadline of submission of application is on or before January 15, 2005.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
ENGINEERING SERVICE
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The PNP Engineering Service is inviting interested PNP accredited contractors to participate in the bidding for the Proposed Construction of Medium Rise PNCO Condominium Building inside Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The approved budget for the contract is P75.8 Million funded through PNP Trust Receipts Program of Expenditure CY 2004.

Interested parties may personally obtain the plans, specification and bid proposal form at the PNP Engineering Service, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Deadline of submission of pre-C/Letter of Intent - Jan. 25, 2004
Issuance of Bid Documents - Jan. 28, 2005
Pre-bid Conference - Feb. 16, 2005
Receipt and Opening of Bids - Feb. 28, 2004

Pre-C document/Letter of Intent will not be accepted after the stipulated deadline and only pre-qualified bidders who were issued with written notice(s) to this effect will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

The Provision of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations, shall govern all particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defective or informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the PNP.

(Sgd.) **RONALDO O. VILLASEÑOR**
Police Senior Superintendent (DSC)
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Jan. 12, 2005)

RUSH SALE

**Office Condo Unit Cityland Condominium 10 Tower 1
Unit 2414, 20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Floor Area – 65.56 square meters
Please call or text Ms. Jojo Punsal 0917-8332722**

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Telephone 893-1320 ext. 5115 Fax 8154216

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

1. DETAILED ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE PALINPINON-II INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM REFURBISHMENT PROJECT
   Contract No EDC 03-147
   Approved Budget P22,711,163 40
2. DETAILED ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE PALINPINON II INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM FCRS (FLUID COLLECTION AND RE-INJECTION SYSTEM) OPTIMIZATION PROJECT
   Contract No EDC-04-145
   Approved Budget P10,531,053 97

The contract duration for both project is two hundred seventy (270) calendar days

The Eligibility Documents and the Bid Documents shall be available for issuance to contractors starting **January 12, 2005** from the Contracts Administration Group upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Five Thousand (P5,000.00) or US Dollar One Hundred Thirty (US$130.00) per bid document, in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, interested bidders are invited to the pre-bid conference to be held on January 24, 2005 at the CAC Conference Room, Bldg V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site Inspection will be held on (to be scheduled) at the PNOC-EDC SNGPF, Valencia, Negros Oriental.

The two (2) stage bidding procedure shall be employed. For the first stage, bidders shall submit their respective Letter of Intent, sealed Application for Eligibility and the initial Technical Proposal in three (3) set to the Contracts Administration Group, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines not later than 2 00 pm on **February 25, 2005**. The bidders' Application for Eligibility and the initial Technical Proposal shall be evaluated and bidders who are eligible to bid will be notified by PNOC-EDC

For the second stage, eligible bidders shall be required to submit their final Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in two separate sealed envelopes. All bids submitted by eligible bidders must be accompanied by a bid security. The bid security must be valid for a period of One Hundred Twenty (120) days reckoned from the date of bid opening, and must be delivered to:

BAC Secretariat (Contracts Admin Group)
PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Ground Floor, Bldg 5, Energy Center
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
Metro Manila, Philippines

At or before 2 00 p m on March 21, 2005. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders representative who chose to attend

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders on the ground of PNOC-EDC's action

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – January 12, 2005)

PNOC – Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Philippines MCPO Box 2102
Telephone 893-6001 / 1320

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Northern Negros Geothermal Project

Date January 4, 2005
Loan Agreement No PH-P176
Contract No., EDC 04-005-1

1. The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, hereinafter called PNOC-EDC has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION hereinafter referred to as JBIC in the amount of Fourteen Billion Four Hundred Sixty Million Japanese Yen (Y14 460,000,000 00) towards the cost of the NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for the DETAILED ENGINEERING, DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING of the INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM for the NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT – FLUID COLLECTION AND RE-INJECTION SYSTEM. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No party other than PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds
2. The Eligibility Documents and the Bid Documents shall be available for issuance to contractors starting January 12, 2005 from the Contracts Administration Group c/o I M Corcuera upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000 00) Philippine Currency or US Dollar One Hundred Thirty (US$130 00) per bid document in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses
3. For purposes of clarifying certain issues, interested bidders are invited to the pre-bid conference to be held on January 24, 2005 at the CAC Conference Room Bldg V PNOC EDC Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site Inspection will be held on (to be scheduled) at the PNOC-EDC SNGPF Valencia Negros Oriental
4. The two (2) stage bidding procedure shall be employed. For the first stage, bidders shall submit their respective Letter of Intent, sealed Application for Eligibility and the initial Technical Proposal in three (3) sets to the Contracts Administration Group, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Energy Center Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila Philippines not later than 2 00 P M on February 25 2005. The bidder's Application for Eligibility and the initial Technical Proposal shall be evaluated and bidders who are eligible to bid will be notified by PNOC-EDC
5. For the second stage eligible bidders shall be required to submit their Final Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in two separate sealed envelopes. All bids submitted by eligible bidders must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a surety bond certified check, bank draft, standby letter of credit or bank guarantee secured from a bank, local or foreign acceptable to PNOC-EDC which shall be callable on demand for an amount of One Million One Hundred Thousand (P1 100 000 00). The bid security must be valid for a period of 120 days reckoned from the date of bid opening and must be delivered to

   BAC Secretariat (Contracts Admin Group)
   PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
   Ground Floor Bldg 5, Energy Center
   Bonifacio Global City Taguig
   Metro Manila Philippines

   At or before 2 00 P M on March 21, 2005. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representative who choose to attend
6. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process to reject any or all bids to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders on the ground of PNOC-EDC's action.
7. DELIVERY SCHEDULE – The Goods under this invitation are required to be delivered within 180 days upon receipt of Letter of Credit. No credit will be given to earlier delivered and bids offering delivery beyond 180 days will be treated as non-responsive

   The Goods are considered to be delivered when all the items specified in the Contract have arrived at Manila Port or at any other location or port in the Philippines mutually agreed upon by the Bidder / Supplier and PNOC-EDC. Hence, the 180 days delivery period is inclusive of shipping time

BAC Chairman

(PDI – January 12, 2005)

JOB Market ONLINE

VISIT US AT: www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office. PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

OUR BELOVED

MILAGROS AGUIRRE VDA DE SARZA

3 January 1924 - 10 January 2005

Her loving children
GIGI and ROY SANTIAGO,
TESS and RICKY CASTELLVI,
BUTCH and ESTER,
KELLY and DAVE DEAN,
VIC and EWEN,
YANCEE, RAMON,
TING and SALLY;
grandchildren TRISHA and JAKE,
INA, EJ, ISSA, INO, IAN, PIA,
TEA, RIELLE, RYAN
and great grandson, MILO
humbly request your prayers for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 16 January 2005
at Manila Memorial Park.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
In green pastures, He gives me repose...
Though I shall walk in the valley of darkness
I shall not fear, for He is with me (Psalm 23).

Our Dearest Miggy

CARLOS MIGUEL ABLAZA BALUYUT

11 June 1976 – 10 January 2005
Assistant Manager, Nestlé Philippines
De La Salle University, 1997
La Salle Greenhills, 1993

Went home to the Lord on 5:34 p.m., 10 January 2005,
after a ten-month valiant battle against cancer

His father, **Carlos Puno Baluyut**; mother, **Elvira C. Ablaza;** stepfather, **Jerome F. Sison**; brother, **Luis Gerardo (Luigi)**; sister, **Ana Celina**, and her husband, **John Janecek**; stepsisters and their spouses – **Leah Sison** and **Mike Galisim** and **Cristina Sison** and **Kevin Yaptenco;** fiancé, **Marie Grace Fulgencio**; son, **Julian Miguel**, and his mother, **Maia Lazo**; grandparents, **Dr. Sariel G. Ablaza** and **Dra. Araceli G. Cinco**; uncles, aunts, cousins, and other relatives; and close friends and colleagues request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

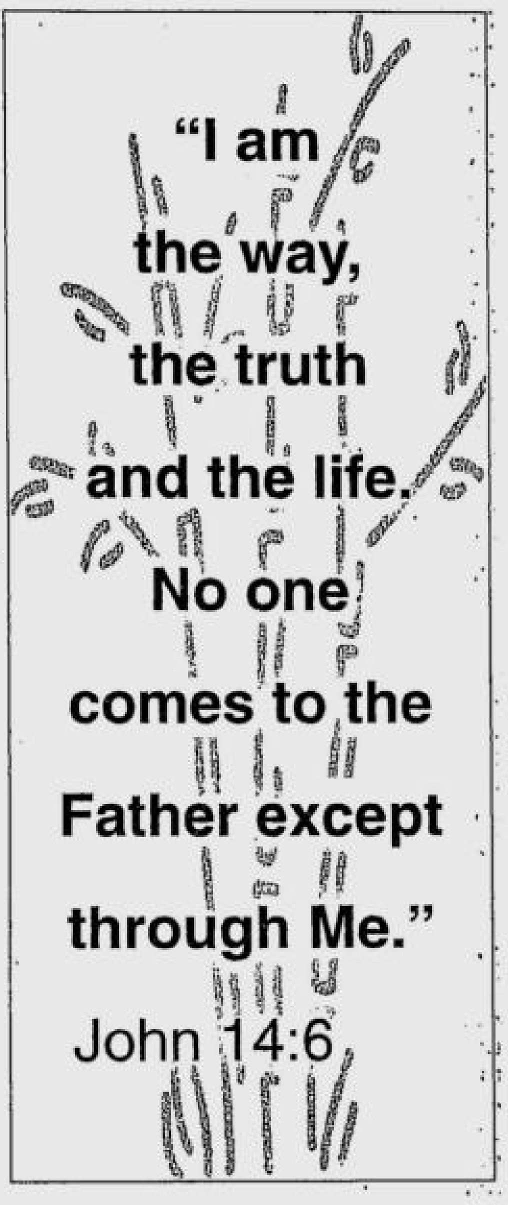
His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

Cremation is set for Thursday, 13 January 2005, at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City after the 5 o'clock p.m. Requiem Mass at Sanctuario de San Jose.

In Memoriam

RUFINO CABURNAY

July 10, 1931 – January 2, 2005



"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

We love you .. We miss you ... We'll forever remember you ...

Antonio Yap Arcenas

Roxas City, Capiz
On the First Anniversary of His Death
(January 12, 2004)

His wife, Elizabeth and children request his friends and relatives to offer prayers for eternal peace of his soul.

Mass will be offered at the following:
St. Martin de Pores, Bacoor, Cavite 6:30 p.m.
St. Catherine's Church, Blauvelt 6:45 a.m.
New York – February 3, 2005

We design
OBITUARIES
for free.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ATTY. RAMONITO "Mon" V. ABARICO

who died on January 3, 2005

Especially wife **Pam**; daughter **Nina** and **Mika**, **Papa Rudy** and **Mama Grace**; **Brod Grandii**; relatives and in-laws wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, made donations to his favorite charities, and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

"We know
that God
raised the
Lord Jesus
from death.
He will raise
us to life
with Jesus.
He will
present us,
along with
you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507, 873-0024

• MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road Makati City, Tel 894-5932 to 34

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels 890-3556 899-8191

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels 895-1011 to 19

MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City;
Tel 890-63-18

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel Nos 843-8838/30;
Fax No 843-9223

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village Makati City,
Tels 852-8228, 852-7284

• MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels 2812963 2813034, 2810522

• MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City,
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044

• MANILA

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St.,
Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M Recto Ave cor T Mapua, Manila,
Tels 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795 732-2827

POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta Cruz Manila.
Tel Nos 254-0867, 254-0839

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels 749-3679 781-1772

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave Sta Cruz, Manila;
Tels 493-4458, 493-4540

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel 302-5447

• MARIKINA

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels 942-6044 475-1177

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V Gomez & 13 V Gomez St.,
San Roque, Marikina City Tels 646-1725 or 646-1730

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Tañong, Marikina City
Tels 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577

PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels 646-1725, 646-1730

• PARAÑAQUE

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels 825-1296 825-1291, Telefax 825-1314

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr A Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque,
Tels 820-1592 825-9947 825-8835

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J Cabarrus cor Monserrat
Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque,
Metro Manila

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8167 Dr. A Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9882, (0916) 712-1220

• PASAY

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels 831-1204

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City,
Tels 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1601, 845-4836

• PASIG

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St cor Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave.,
Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels
641-7909, 641-1735

• QUEZON CITY

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels 715-1025;
715-1031, 715-1027

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Palo St., Project 2 Quezon City, Tel 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G Araneta Ave cor Kalraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3930 to 11, 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City,
Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87

• TAGUIG-PATEROS

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila:
Tels 642-3010 633-3502

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila,
Tels 642-6181 to 82

HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels (DL) 845-2341 to 42;
(TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

• ALBAY

LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City,
Tels (052) 820-0188, 0917-2074152

• BACOLOD

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City,
Tel. 433-7132

• BAGUIO

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City,
Tel (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

• BATAAN

SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan
Tels (047) 2370643 • 7911766

• BULACAN

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel Bulacan 3011, Tels (044)
764-0281, 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603

• CAVITE

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite,
Tels (046) 471-3375, 471-2675

LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417;
(046) 571-1978

• CEBU

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City,
Tels 231-0721 231-3192

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue
City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601

• DAVAO

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext cor J Abad Santos, Davao City:
Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

• ILOCOS

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Tel 722-2730,
Cell (0917) 5680138, (0917) 5680145

• LAGUNA

SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy Dila Sta Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142 Fax (049) 531-4989

ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels (049) 562-1668 800-2914
Cel No (0917) 5016903

• PAMPANGA

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor P Burgos St., Lourdes Sur,
Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247

• RIZAL

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No 8 Cangma St Antipolo City 1870
Tel No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426,
Fax 697-2764

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guinang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal, Tels 649-5949,
942-4460

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave.,
Angono, Rizal
Tels 651-1711, 651-0737

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels 645-1855

• ZAMBALES

DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086, (047) 222-4512 (047) 224-2014

OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No (047) 223-1692

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Pinay in Singapore helps make the world smell sweeter

AYET Lim-Go CANDY G. VILLANUEVA/CONTRIBUTOR

By Candy G. Villanueva

ALL ABOUT WORK

DO YOU know that you can make a career out of smelling different odors and scents? When a woman walks by and leaves a subtle trail of jasmine scent or when you're cuddled up in bed and inhaling the fragrance of pine breeze from your pillowcase, remember that there are several people we ought to be grateful for and one of them is a Pinay. Professionals like Ayet Lim-Go are responsible for making our world smell sweeter.

Ayet Lim-Go is a senior fragrance evaluator for Takasago International Pte. Ltd. in Singapore. Takasago International is one of the world's leading flavor and fragrance companies. Over 80 years in the business, the Japanese-founded company is responsible for making people's lives more flavorful and fragrant. Consumer products like bath products, cosmetics, laundry soaps, cleansers and air fresheners are more pleasant to use because of the fragrances supplied by Takasago International. "Commercially winning fragrances coupled with concepts and product delivery systems enhance consumers' lifestyle thereby creating a new experience with the products that they use," explains Lim-Go.

Fragrance evaluation

As head of the Odor Evaluation Board, Lim-Go handles the final selection of fragrances requested by customers. Because she takes care of evaluation and selection of commercially winning fragrances, it is her job to identify fragrance trends in relation to consumer needs. She also notes culture and habits in different countries in her research. What do consumers like? What are the trends? These are the questions that often occupy her.

As senior evaluator, Lim-Go manages projects for regional customers. She acts as the middle person by interpreting the client requirements to perfumers, the technical application group and the marketing department.

Stopping to smell the roses, the gardenias and the lavenders, Lim-Go, on a typical day, selects a number of alternatives, testing fragrances in actual product base and evaluating each for performance. When selecting the perfect scent for a beauty soap for example, Lim-Go evaluates the selected fragrances by applying them on the actual soap base. The soap will then be tested in the different stages of actual use. If the fragrance performance rates as satisfactory based on an identified benchmark, Lim-Go then submits the best performing fragrances to the client. She says she coordinates closely with the creative team, which includes perfumers and evaluators during the evaluation process.

Art plus science

It is the company's belief that fragrance can change one's mood and also assert one's uniqueness. This is why Lim-Go and her creative team combine science and art to expand people's horizon and help them express their individuality through fragrances. According to her, a good background in chemistry would come in handy because scientific expertise is a fundamental part of fragrance creation and evaluation. Often, scientific processes like substantivity, diffusivity and stability are applied. Also, knowledge on different fragrance notes and market trends is necessary. These skills, however, can be acquired through on-the-job training.

One should also have a good nose for smelling. "A good sense of smell is a must, which can be acquired through daily exposure to the different types of odors. Smelling is a continuous learning experience as new notes and accords are created day by day," shares Lim-Go. A good fragrance evaluator must also have a keen understanding of the various regional and global markets. This is because consumer insight is primary in the business of fragrances. Consumer preference survey techniques are usually applied by evaluators to determine what fragrances work best for specific markets.

Unfortunately, there are no local schools that offer odor evaluation or perfumery courses but several institutions abroad train professionals on the basics of fragrance evaluation and odor investigation. Courses taught include odor notes, nose calibration, field olfactometer and data collection. Schools like the St. Croix Sensory in Minnesota, The Grasse Institute of Perfumery in Cedex France and Perfumers World-Ltd. in Thailand offer courses to those who are interested in the fragrance industry.

"There certainly are some job opportunities in our industry abroad although very limited as there are just a number of fragrance companies worldwide. This industry is a highly specialized one," says Lim-Go. Those who think have the nose for the fragrance industry may consider the position of fragrance evaluators, perfumers, technical managers, marketing, market research and application chemists just to name a few.

Fragrance and culture diversity

The poetry of aromas and fragrances is a fascinating exploration. The luxury of being surrounded by exotic scents that stimulate the senses is enough of a fulfillment for fragrance evaluators like Lim-Go. "The work is not a routine job. Every day is a fascinating experience of smelling and evaluating new creative fragrances and new product launches from the different product categories," claims Lim-Go.

The sense of smell is not the only part of Lim-Go that is being stimulated. For her, effectively responding to the constantly changing needs and wants of consumers is also a big challenge. Add to that is the challenge of keeping up with competitors. "Working on projects requesting for fragrances with very stringent regulations and working on difficult product bases is also difficult. The pressure to win the project amidst the restrictions compounds to the challenge," adds Lim-Go.

Working and living in a multi-cultural society also became a challenge to Lim-Go at the start. Eventually, she realized that respect and tolerance are keys to adapting to an environment with such diversity. "As a newcomer, one has to learn to respect and tolerate these various groups both in the neighborhood and at work."

Language also became a barrier for a while. Lim-Go had to get used to the "Singlish" language—a mix of English with Malay and some Chinese dialects. "I struggled with this peculiar brand of English which flourishes here. But gradually, I began to understand and appreciate the way the locals cut back wonderfully on their sentences." "What are we going to do next?" for instance is often cut to "So how?" Fortunately, Singaporeans can competently switch between standard English and Singlish.

New home

Born and raised in the Philippines, Lim-Go relocated to Singapore in 1993. She joined an ex-colleague in search for better opportunities and greater challenges. It was hard to resist Singapore's strong stable government, sound economy and socio-cultural stability. Although it was a difficult adjustment away from her comfort zone, she eventually found home. "It has been a wonderful experience. Singapore has offered many opportunities and good fortune. I must admit that at the start, working here alone was boring, dull and I felt homesick. But as my circle of friends grew in leaps by day, a sense of belonging has emerged. I have neither complaints nor regrets coming here to work."

Lim-Go considers Singapore as a good employer. "When most Asian economies were on a slump, the government embarked on many subsidized training programs to upgrade the skills and knowledge of the workforce so as to enhance their chance of getting a new job should they be displaced." Employees enjoy the benefits of a comprehensive social-security savings scheme that covers retirement, home ownership, health care and financial protection.

Aside from the many tangible benefits of being a permanent resident, Lim-Go is thankful for the things she has learned. "My work habits have improved over the years of working for an international company with a global reach." According to the senior fragrance evaluator, her work attitude has taken on a different perspective because the scope of her responsibilities covers a bigger market." All in all, Lim-Go affirms that life as a fragrance expert in Singapore is good. For her, life definitely smells like a bed of roses.

'I am ready to be a college professor'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I HAVE been planning to share my employment situation with you since 2001 but I restrained myself because I remained hopeful that things would change. Sadly, this hope has been gradually transformed into cynicism. Let me share with you the details. I am a Political Science graduate and my former professor asked me to work for her as a research assistant. I was very flattered so I accepted even if I would be compensated below minimum wage.

My tasks were intellectually stimulating because I also became a student and teaching assistant but later on, I felt absolute boredom and discontentment. The reasons were: my work became a boring routine and the meager compensation could hardly finance my daily transportation. I tried to ignore this reality and remained optimistic.

However, my situation gave me tremendous emotional and psychological stress that caused me to suffer from severe acne that wrecked my beautiful face. I sought professional and medical treatment through my parents' financial support. I submitted my resignation but after five months I was asked to go back because my boss said no one had the competence to meet her expectations. This was the best compliment I received so I went back to the academe and research and finally accepted the fact that working in such environment was not financially rewarding.

To improve my credentials and research skills, I decided to pursue graduate studies and took up Urban Planning. It was a beautiful experience. I became inspired and forgot my unfortunate conditions at work. I finished my program in April 2003 and it gave me hope for better employment opportunities. Since my exposure was in academe and research, I tried to apply for a teaching position on General Education courses, introductory courses on Social Science, Political Science and Environmental Planning.

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Unfortunately, this became another emotional and psychological torture. I sent my credentials to 10 private colleges and universities but they unkindly rejected me. The reason: they could not see the theoretical relevance and alignment of Political Science and Urban Planning. They said that I had the required undergraduate degree but pursued an irrelevant, inconsistent, and strange graduate study. All of them disregarded my application despite my insistence to be given a teaching demonstration and present my research projects.

Now, I am in a state of cynicism and depression. My severe acne is becoming worse and my parents are spending a lot for my medication. I try to be optimistic but I feel I am in a deadlock. Please guide me on what is the best thing to do.

Cold-blooded Cynic

You mentioned that even with good credentials you could not land the university teaching job you desire because universities going over your resumé do not see the connection between political science and urban planning. My suggestion is for you not to give up so easily. Why not write an essay showing the connection between the two courses. I am no expert in these two areas but I can see clear connections. Once you have completed your essay, set an appointment with the schools concerned and request for an interview. During the interview, share to them your thoughts and give them a copy of your essay.

Your other choice is to go beyond the academe. Some companies would need your competency in research and will compensate you fairly for your effort. Strive for greater emotional well-being by reframing the challenge in front of you. Stay pretty! We are fortunate that today, a lot of skin doctors are able to help us through our bouts with acne.

You can send me your resumé and I will try to send it to some deans who may be open to giving you a chance. Then, I am positive readers coming across this article are also willing to help if they are in a position to do so. All the best to you!

By the way, this is a message for the two readers asking for information on tilapia farming that I mentioned in a past article. Recently, I visited my nephew who is the son and marketing manager of Peter Mountain Farm based in Tibagan, Tarlac City. He has a business model for a one-hectare tilapia grow-out farm that is very interesting. You can e-mail him at paulmaneseyahoo.com or text for an appointment, his cell phone number is 0922-5264405. God bless you!

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Work at home: a working mom's option

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

IT was the first day of work on a fresh new year but at 9 a.m. I was still in my pajamas, sitting at my cluttered home desk (still crammed with unsent Christmas cards), nursing a glass of orange juice. I also had on a silly grin. I had bit the bullet, after all, and had gone for the next logical step in the search for work-life balance. This was my first day as a WAHM—a work-at-home mom. There were plenty of reasons to smile.

Many forces worked together to get me to this point. There was the need to tilt the balance toward family life and there also was an enlightened boss on the other end willing to explore the wonders of telecommuting with me. So in my keyboard best, I let my fingers navigate through Internet traffic and make their way to our office cubicles. Even before my officemates had punched in, I was already sending out e-mail and text messages and poring through the plans for 2005 right from home.

Moving into the second week of work-at-home, my grin has become sillier because the force of the bullet have knocked some of my teeth in. While the rewards of working at home are wonderful, the realities can be quite daunting too. I can't say I wasn't warned, I had talked to many WAHMs before I made my decision, but now I am coming face to face with the very same ghosts they warned me about, the issues that lurk within our home kingdom.

"You'll need a door with a lock. And you might have to poison the neighbor's dog." She was joking about the dog, of course. But this was the advice of telecommuting mom and writer Dedet Panabi. One of the first things a WAHM must do is to establish boundaries. People at home, particularly our kids, may not realize that although we are at home, we have office work to do. I don't have the luxury of a locked door yet, so my toddler has taken to hiding behind my chair and then jumping out and shouting, "surprise!" It's not so cute, when you're on the phone or when you're groping for the last sentence in your article.

Even though we're working from the house, we have to maintain our professional polish. Yes, you could be working in your pajamas, but you must answer the phone quickly and politely (preferably without the dog barking in the background). The phone is our window to the world; we have to be at our best.

"The hardest time to work is siesta time. The bed keeps calling me," warned Marla Silayan, recalling her home-based days. In my case, it's been the bookshelf calling. There are just so many books I want to read. They tease and seduce me piled up as they are all around my desk.

There is also my little boy who dreams up of the most dramatic ways to get me to play with him ("There's an owl in my room," he told me the other day. "Do you want to see it?") WAHMs are prone to distraction. Home is home because they hold our favorite escapes and it's easy to succumb when nobody's looking. So self-discipline is so essential to a successful WAHM. We have to be self-driven and very committed to sticking to our work schedule.

"You must dress up for work, even if your office is just across your bedroom." Only in my second week did I begin to see the wisdom of this advice given many years ago by my mom, my paragon of work-at-home success. The dressing up signals a paradigm shift. It is a cue to you that you have moved from your cozy bedroom mode to your efficient professional self. Plus, if you don't have a door to your home office (I work out of a corner in the living room), dressing up could also be the signal to your house help that you are busy and no longer available for their problems (*"Ano pong ulam natin ngayon?"*—when I worked in the office, my cook used to handle decisions like this without having to consult me. (Now she's decided to abdicate from decision-making because I'm home all the time). Putting on comfortable but well put-together work clothes helps send the message that you are doing serious work.

"Ahhh, it can get lonely," warned Cecile Mendoza, an entrepreneur who works out of the house three times a week. "You're the last to know about what's going on in the office. News comes to you only second hand. And when you're so used to being in the thick of decision-making, this is difficult." When there's still an office we must stay connected with, we have to make our presence felt even when we're away, through phone calls, text messages, and quick response through e-mail. On the days that we are in the office, we have to be constantly networking, updating our boss, and bonding with our coworkers.

It's so easy to fall into the trap of believing that the world revolves around your home schedule, WAHMS have to keep glued to the pulse of the world around us, even when there's a two-year old asking you every few seconds: "Why you not going to the office?" And all you can do is grin.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN. For more work-life balance tips look for this month's issue with Donita Rose on the cover. Your own working mom stories are welcome at an_alcantara@-abs.pinoycentral.com*)*

GREEN BANK 25th AMONG TOP 1000 TAXPAYERS

CENTENNIAL TAXPAYERS
AWAR G C EMONY

Green Bank receives Bureau of Internal Revenue award of recognition as the 25th among the top 1000 Centennial taxpayers of the Philippines.Shown above is L-R; Mr. Edilberto C. Radaza Revenue District 103 Director; BIR Regional Director Tamanatao S. Amerol and Mr. Joseph Omar O. Andaya, Green Bank President and Chairman of the Board.

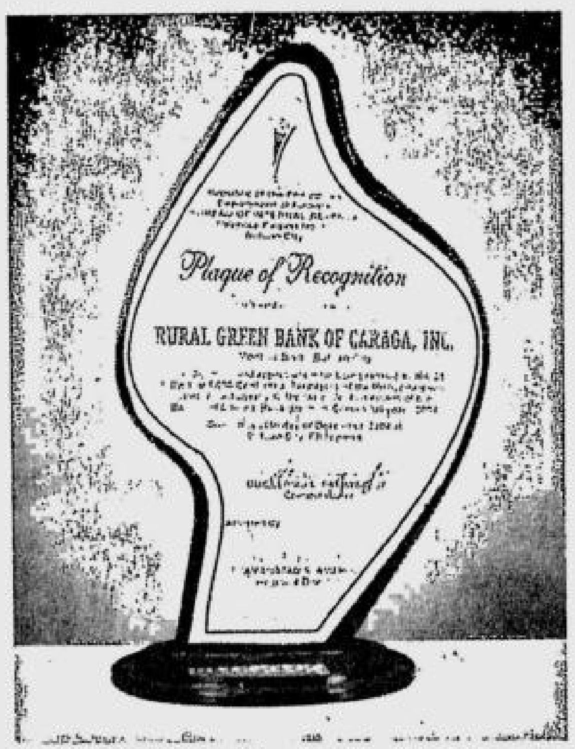
The Rural Green Bank of Caraga Inc. was recently awarded by the Bureau of Internal Revenue with a Plaque of Recognition as No. 25 of the top 1000 Centennial taxpayers of the Philippines which contributed greatly to the collection effort of the BIR in the Centennial year 2004.

And on the Regional level, Region XIII of the Administrative Region of Caraga, Green Bank ranks No.1 Taxpayer in the whole region.

The Plaque of Recognition signed by BIR Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno Jr. and attested by BIR Regional Director Tamanatao S. Amerol was handed to Mr. Joseph Omar O. Andaya the Bank's President and Chairman of the Board last December 20, 2004 at the BIR office in Butuan City, Philippines

Aside from the Present 23 Branches in Visayas and Mindanao, by the year 2005 four more branches will be opened in the province of Cebu. By early 2006 seven more branches are slated to be opened in Western Visayas. Green Bank by then will have a total of 34 branches.

As projected by President Joseph Omar O. Andaya, with the blessing from the Lord Almighty, the Green Bank will be knocking at the Financial doors of Luzon, in the not too distant future.



Plaque of Recognition as No. 25 of the top 1000 Centennial taxpayers.

ADVT.

BUSINESS

MNTC to offer discounts to jeeps, buses plying NLEX

By Clarissa S. Batino

MANILA North Tollways Corp., the Lopez-controlled consortium, yesterday said it would offer "generous discounts" to jeeps and buses using the North Luzon Expressway once it starts imposing a much higher toll rate rate by February.

MNTC president Jose "Ping" de Jesus said that jeep drivers using the open system could avail themselves of a P190 pass that could be used without limit for a full day.

The Lopez-led consortium is raising toll fees by about 380 percent along the 84-kilometer highway starting next month.

Rene Ticson, marketing director of MNTC, said that a jeep's toll expenses could average about P800 a day. The day pass could only be used on NLEX's open system that charges a flat rate of P42 from Balintawak to Marilao in Bulacan for cars and other light vehicles.

"The discount for public utility vehicles had been approved by our lenders. We believe it is also acceptable to the PUVs that would be affected once the toll fees are increased," De Jesus said.

Ticson said that for the closed system charging a per kilometer fee, jeeps would be given a 7-percent discount provided they were plying legitimate routes.

"Our PUVs live on a hand-to-mouth existence. We want to help ease their burden," added De Jesus.

Buses and trucks would be given a 10-percent discount on the open system. Toll expenses between P7,001 and P12,000 would entitle a unit to a 12-percent discount and those exceeding P12,000 would be given a 15-percent discount.

The FXs, according to Ticson, could get a 12-percent discount for a monthly toll consumption of P5,000.

De Jesus said MNTC would secure a toll operating permit from the Toll Regulatory Board by the end of the month to allow the group to collect higher fees starting February based on a pre-approved formula.

He said the next toll adjustment would be in 2007. "If the foreign exchange and inflation would be stable, then we may even reduce the toll fee. At the very least, it would be flat."

The TRB would review whether MNTC's computation in coming up with the toll fees was in line with the formula set in the Supplemental Toll Operations Agreement signed by the consortium with the government in 1998.

Based on MNTC's estimates, cars and jeeps or Class 1 vehicles would have to pay P200 for the entire NLEX stretch, light trucks and buses or Class 2 would shell out P500 and heavy trucks and trailers or Class 3 would be charged P600.

MNTCs Tollway Management Corp. would operate the NLEX for 30 years starting 2005 once the consortium has completed the upgrade and rehabilitation of the 84-km highway running from Balintawak to Sta. Ines in Pampanga.

After this period, the group would turn over the highway to the government. MNTC said the cost of upgrading and rehabilitating the NLEX reached $371 million, of which creditors financed 68 percent or $253 million.

MNTC's new rate would mean a 388-percent increase for the class 1 and class 3 vehicles and 510 percent for class 2 vehicles.

MNTC's toll structure is comprised of a flat P42 for class 1 vehicles from Balintawak to Marilao and P2.49 per kilometer from there to Sta. Ines. The fee scheme is comprised of a base rate of P14 and P82 centavos per km, which were adjusted depending on inflation and foreign exchange.

Dodge Durango 4X2
DOWN-TO-EARTH CHRISTMAS OFFER
Now, ONLY FOR ₱1,850,000 up to January 15, 2005
Grab Life by the Horns
Hurry!
DODGE
Durango 4X2

Chrysler Mandaluyong
503 Boni Ave. cor San Rafael St.,
Mandaluyong City
TEL: 531-9075 to 79; 534-1992
534-1990; 534-1965
FAX: 532-3398

Chrysler Cebu
A.S. Fortuna St.,
Mandaue City
TEL: (032) 345-6919 to 20
FAX: (032) 345-6910

Chrysler Iloilo
Sen. Benigno Aquino Ave.,
(Diversion Road) Iloilo City
TEL: (033)320-0536; 320-0952;
320-0567

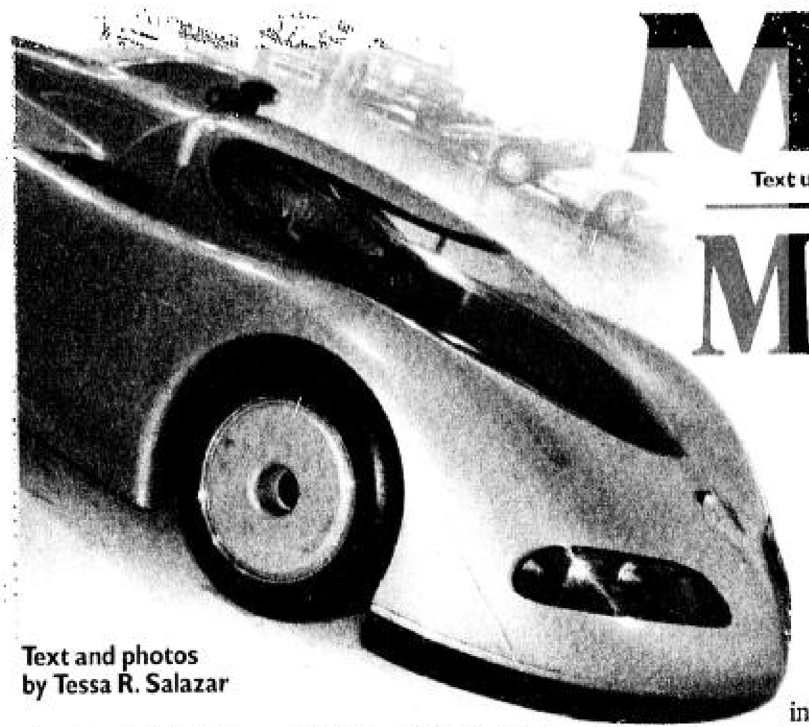
Chrysler Bacolod
Araneta St., Singcang,
Bacolod City
TEL: (034) 435-0221 to 23
FAX: (034) 433-0330

Dodge is a brand of Daimler Chrysler
GENUINE PARTS and SERVICE
GUARANTEED
Mopar PARTS

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Motown hums to new designs, high-tech entertainment, eco-friendly cars



THE GM Heritage Center in Detroit is home to eye-popping concept cars like this Oldsmobile aerotech long tail high speed research vehicle.

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

DETROIT, Michigan—Never mind the bone-chilling weather. People from around the world who've flocked to Motown at the coldest time of the year didn't bring their tourist sunglasses and tanning lotions with them. And they certainly knew what to bring: jackets, thermal suits, gloves, scarves and a bagful of patience as snow and -3°Celsius weather caused some flight delays and lost luggage. But, as they say, come rain or shine, sleet or snow, the show must go on.

What a show!

And what a show the 17th edition of the North American International Auto Show (Naias) promises to be—a debut of concept and production cars: 55 new vehicles and 46 introductions; and an estimated 6,700 journalists attending 40 press conferences. These numbers reinforce Detroit as the "mecca" of the automotive world.

The Naias competes with four other major international auto shows that motoring journalists watch out for: Frankfurt, Paris, Tokyo and Geneva.

Not so hospitable weather

Journalists from Asian countries, however, were forewarned: the weather in Detroit would not be so hospitable. Yet, even with all the borrowed and bought winter clothing packed into large suitcases, nothing prepares tropical-dwelling humans for winter, let alone harsh winter in the northern United States.

The sight of every rooftop and automobile on the streets covered in a white blanket of snow was surrealistic and mesmerizing. In such numbing weather that can put life at a standstill, it's a wonder how this city ever became the birthplace of so many hot rides.

Schedule

But then, that's what the organizers of Naias at the Cobo Hall are all set to prove anew to the world from Jan. 9 to 23. Naias got things going with a press preview from Jan. 9 to 11, and is set to follow that up with an industry and motoring preview on Jan. 12-13. And from Jan. 15 to 23, the floodgates open to the public.

Highly anticipated by the automotive world, the 2005 Naias promises to unveil "next-level" cars both in form and function. A highly anticipated highlight of the show is the introduction of a dozen or so concept vehicles that would hopefully banish the overdependence on fossil fuels. The auto show is also teeming with concept and production cars and a host of high-tech entertainment components.

THE SNOW-COVERED Detroit is home to hot, hot wheels

The city of Detroit also expects to earn over $580 million from business transactions conducted in and around 2005 Naias such as the cost of producing exhibits.

All the major global players, of course, are here. Name it, you'll see it: General Motors, Chrysler Group, Lexus, Mercedes Benz, Suzuki, Subaru, Mitsubishi, BMW, Hyundai, Infiniti, Ferrari Maserati Group, Honda, Lincoln, Mercury, Jaguar, Land Rover, Volkswagen, Nissan, Acura, Audi, Mazda, Porsche, Ford Motor Co. and Toyota.

Test drive

The show also promises to be quite interactive, as well. General Motors, for example, has invited journalists to test-drive an exotic Corvette, among others, at the proving grounds in Phoenix, Arizona.

It was the supercar 2006 Corvette Z06 (we will be driving the previous model) that created a buzz a month ago when an automotive publication used the information and photos of the Vette that is supposed to be for embargo until its debut here at the auto show.

No other auto show in the United States equals the scope and magnitude of the 17th Naias,

MOTOWN/ B2-4

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

Passion to THE PERFECT ENGINE.

What's wrong with perfection? Like the new TOYOTA HILUX.

Equipped with the most advanced diesel engine technology – the new Common-Rail diesel engine is able to constantly supply high-pressurized fuel injections at all speed ranges, enabling better combustion. So you get increased power, reduced noise levels, better fuel efficiency and lower emissions.

New D-4D Common Rail VN Turbo Intercooler
HILUX
The Perfect Drive

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500

www.toyota.com.ph

TOYOTA

Another Toyota surprise; NLE observation

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

TOYOTA has not stopped giving us pleasant surprises, the latest being its exceptionally low down payment of P80,000 for every purchase of a Revo.

"Again, it's our way of saying 'Thank You' to our customers for making us No. 1 for the third year in a row," said Danny "Sir John" Isla, a top senior vice president of Toyota Motors Philippines.

For the Revo DLX Gas, it can be had for a monthly payment of P6,114 for 72 months. What a steal! There is a special package for cash buyers, too. The promotion is up to Jan. 31 only.

A similar scheme is available to anyone wishing to buy a RAV4: P100,000 down payment for either the RAV4 4x4 A/T or RAV4 4x2 SV M/T.

Such bonanzas could only come from a motoring giant like Toyota, whose Triple Crown feats in 2002, 2003 and 2004 are unprecedented.

Take a bow, Tabata-san!

* * *

Here's an observation on the North Luzon Expressway by Briton Rob Dix, the proud owner of Chix Unlimited, the biggest hatchery in Northern Luzon. Like me, Rob, whose favorite drink next to San Miguel Beer is a South African wine named Nederberg, traverses the NLE every now and then.

REVO

"Dear Al,

"I know that you are now regularly using the so-called renovated or world-class North Luzon toll way.

"I am sure that recently, you have noticed all the works that are being done. I have received information that more than 55 percent of the work has failed to pass the quality standards set, I suppose, by the DPWH.

"For several months now, section after section has been 'rotomilled' and resurfaced, in fact just a couple of weeks ago, the entire R.H. Lane from San Simon to Pulilan viaduct had to be excavated and not only the asphalt but the entire base course replaced. That same section has been flooding regularly due to lack of drainage at the center section which is a 'V' shape, thus acting as a catchwater area as the water seeps under the road, damaging the base course.

"Now we see that the Hi-Tech concrete dividing wall is being broken down at regular intervals and being replaced with movable concrete dividers. Maybe, they realized there was no place for emergency vehicles to gain access to other lanes in case of accident.

"Look at the fiasco just North of Bocaue exit where holes are being made in the base of the dividing wall to allow for the water to drain as the road camber in that area is sloping toward the wall so when it rains, the L.H. lane is always flooded!

"By the amount of rework being done it would appear as if this whole project has been carried out without any planning. Remember when this project was started—was it 3 years ago?—the notice boards that were put up regarding the project stated that North-bound completion date would be September 2003 and South-bound December 2003. Then just a few days after the recent election, very quietly the completion date was changed to September and December 2004! Well, here we are in December 2004 and it seems there is still no completion in sight! Why have we not heard anybody from government suggesting the contractor should be penalized for delays or using sub-standard materials boggles the mind.

In the meantime, the long suffering motorists must grin and bear as usual!"

Points well taken.

RAV4

In this regard, I read in the papers this week that management of the new NLE will be handled by the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) starting next month, February. But for that to officially happen, the MNTC needs to first apply for a certificate of substantial completion before the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB). Add to that an application for a toll operating permit, also to be submitted to the TRB.

* * *

For the record, the MNTC is a joint venture of the Lopez family owned First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp., Egis Projects S.A., Leighton Asia Ltd. and the state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. The NLE is being rehabilitated and upgraded to the tune of P18 billion.

The deadline for completion of work has not really been met and that's understandable. Even the construction of simple bungalows—even a nipa hut or a *bahay kubo*—does not usually meet the expected date of completion. Human nature.

Said Jose "Ping" de Jesus, MNTC president: "The estimate of the contractor (to end the project) is end of next week (that's Jan. 16), but it has not met its previous deadlines so I'll give them another week. If everything goes well, we'll be finished by the end of January. By February, we hope to take over."

So there.

* * *

Nissan's Vir Diwa, one of the most enduring executives in the motoring world, has retired. He has served Nissan with distinction for decades and here's a glass to him. To Vir, welcome to the world of peace and togetherness, again, with wife and family.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Only one out of 50 Expressway users give way to fast drivers.

Big bikes awarded to 5 lucky guys

FANTASIES do come true!

Axe, the leading deo-cologne brand of Unilever Philippines, recently concluded the Axe Big Bike promo with the awarding of five sought-after big bikes to their proud new owners.

Recipients of the big bikes were Mikko Martelino (Moto Guzzi Balabio), Andrew Alarcon (BMW Rockster), Kristopher John Pilapil (Harley Davidson), Apolinario Abrahan (Ducati SS 800) and Oliver Barzaga (Aprilia). They are now the envy of thousands of men who had crossed their fingers and aspired to ride the handsome bikes.

Experiencing the rush

Said Alarcon, 21-year-old BMW Rockster winner: "When I saw the Axe Big Bike promo billboard on Edsa I knew I had to join. I have always dreamt of feeling the speed and experiencing the rush that a big bike can bring. Now, I can definitely do that with my brand-new bike from Axe!"

The five winners thought that owning their very own big bike could only happen in their fantasies. Thousands of entries were sent in as hopefuls saw Axe as the means to live out their desire to look and smell good, experience thrill, and get their dream girls.

With only one entry, Pilapil, represented by his father Johnny at the awarding ceremony, has always been a bike aficionado.

"*Macho kasi ang dating* and girls like riding big bikes with their guy," said Pilapil, the owner of a brand-new Harley Davidson. Seeing the bikes in one of the mall tours gave him a high and compelled him to buy at least one Axe product to join the promo.

"All the bikes were so striking; I couldn't resist giving the promo a shot," added Pilapil.

For Ducati winner Abrahan, joining the Axe Big Bike promo was a breeze. Abrahan favored Axe Gravity but since he had his eye on the Ducati, he eagerly switched and started using Axe Phoenix. He text in the codes of the six Axe bottles that he consumed during the three-month period of the promo.

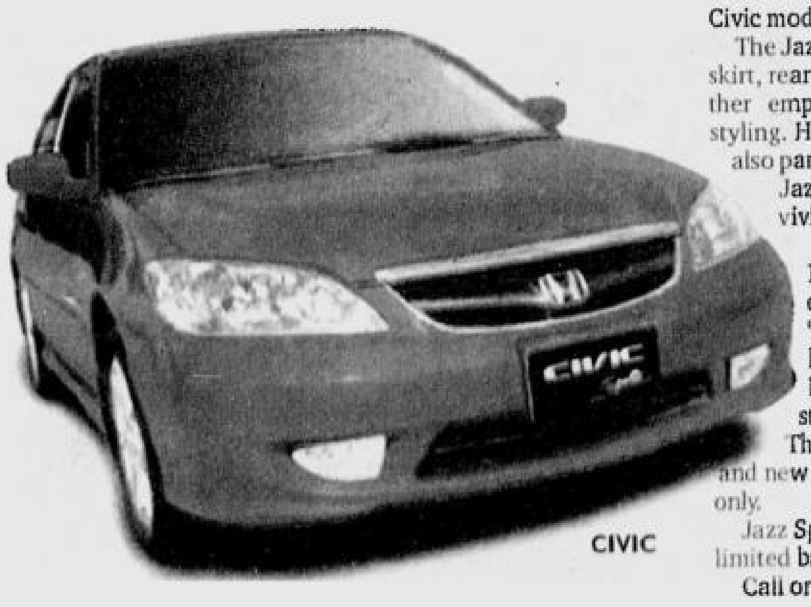
Said Abrahan: "I like the smell of the Axe fragrances which are good for everyday use. Ever since I tried Axe when I was a teenager, I've been loyal to Axe."

5 fragrances

Axe comes in five fragrances. Each one caters to a specific personality just like the five big bikes given away. Axe Pulse is for the hip and trendy guy; Axe Dimension fits the edgy, party-animal; Axe Gravity suits the suave gentleman best; Axe Phoenix is favored by the approachable, wholesome boy-next-door; and Axe Energy matches the athletic hunks like a glove.

Said Axe brand manager Franz Decloedt: "We are overwhelmed by the success of the Axe Big Bike promo and we thank all the guys who support Axe. Definitely, Axe users will see more exciting things in the coming months which will be equally fun and exciting as the Axe Big Bike promo!"

Honda Sports Series launched



CIVIC

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. recently launched its newest series of "Sports" editions for the Jazz and Civic models.

The Jazz Sports comes with front fog lamps, front skirt, rear skirt, side skirts and tailgate spoiler to further emphasize the car's hip and cool exterior styling. Honda's new hydrophilic paint protection is also part of the special package.

Jazz Sports is available in silverstone and vivid blue for both MT and CVT.

Still the most powerful car in its class with 155ps generated by its 2.0-liter DOHC i-VTEC engine, the Civic 2.0 Sports boasts of 16-inch "Type R design" alloy wheels, two-tone sporty leather seats and 6-disc in-dash stereo with MP3 capability. Special floor mats and side step garnish are also standard items.

The Civic 2.0 Sports is available in electron blue and new milano red—exclusive colors for this variant only.

Jazz Sports and Civic 2.0 Sports are available on a limited basis only.

Call or visit your Honda dealer for more details.

Winners of 'Catch Your Dream Drive' promo known

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. ignites 2005 by rewarding its valued customers with excellent prizes including a brand-new Nissan X-Trail and a collection of Philips entertainment systems in the raffle draw of the "Catch Your Dream Drive" promo.

This successful promo started on Sept. 17 and ended Dec. 30, 2004, generating thousands of entries from buyers of the X-Trail, Sentra, Cefiro, Serena and even the mighty 350Z nationwide.

The raffle draw held at the NMPI main building lobby on Jan. 7 was done in the presence of Department of Trade and Industry representative Mena M. Alea, NMPI president and CEO Leman Lee, VP for corporate planning Val de Leon, VP for finance Marian Calimon, VP for manufacturing Adair Chang, Marketing AVP Dennis Chang and other key NMPI managers. Witnessing the event were Nissan dealer representatives and sales managers and representatives from NMPI's advertising agency.

Winners

The grand prize, a 2.0-liter Nissan X-Trail, was won by George Sytangco of Naga City, who bought a Sentra GSX 1.6 M/T from Nissan Commonwealth on Oct. 20, 2004.

"By giving away the X-Trail, the country's No. 1 compact SUV to date, we are reaffirming and at the same time spreading the news of just how good this SUV is," comments Lee.

The first prize of one Philips Home Theater package with 43-inch projection TV went to Celia Padilla from Makati City, who bought a Nissan Cefiro 300EX from Nissan Mantrade on Oct. 30, 2004.

The second prizes consisting of two Philips Home Theater package with 43-inch high definition TV went to Abelardo Fabian Pineda and Rommel Sim Galang.

Other prizes raffled off to Nissan customers were three Philips Home Theater package with 29-inch TV for the third prizes which were won by Rowena Escalante, Mary Jane Dale and Aris Christian Obien; and five Philips DVD Theater systems for the 4th prizes which were won by Leonor Santos, Paul Galope, Ma. Wendy Miyata, Michael Tuya and Kathleen Kierulf. Ten Philips mini hi-fi systems for the 5th prizes were won by Annaliza Bunes, Emerito Cruz, Danny Bornales, Prudencio Reyes, Arsenia Santos, Gerardo Canlas, Primo Gregorio, Milagros Meranian, Domingo Sta. Maria and Chito Manimbo.

For valued customers

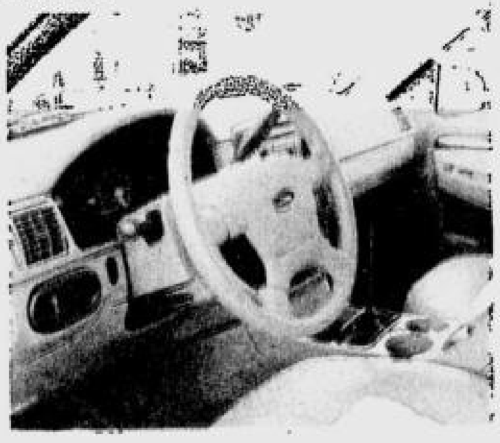
"We raffled off these excellent prizes to express our thanks to our valued customers. They are the true winners because they chose very good vehicles in the X-Trail, Sentra, Cefiro, Serena or 350Z," says Chock Camacho, sales planning manager at NMPI.

"The Catch Your Dream Drive promo helped the dealers strengthen our loyal customer base and attracted new converts to the Nissan brand," explains Herbert Tan, VP for operations of Nissan Mantrade, NMPI's leading dealer.

The X-Trail 4x2 is a best seller of NMPI in the compact SUV segment. It is known for its sturdiness and comfortable ride like its top-of-the-line sibling, the X-Trail 250X. The X-Trail also topped the compact SUV charts from August to November last year, proving it is a legend in the making and one of the most desirable vehicles in the Philippine market.

VIEWED from any angle, the Explorer looks like a smaller Expedition.

WITH THE third seat folded forward, the Explorer's cargo area is considerably increased.



THE EDDIE Baeur-designed two-tone, leather trimmed, woodgrain-accented interior of the Explorer.

America's best-selling SUV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE FORD Explorer's 13-year success story as America's best-selling SUV has been disrupted only once. That happened five years ago, when the Explorer was dragged into a controversy created by the recall of 6.5 million Firestone tires for a safety defect (the tread tended to peel off, sometimes at high speeds, causing a blowout and the motor vehicle to roll over) and many Explorer units happened to be shod with these tires.

But the Explorer weathered the controversy and went on to become the first and only SUV to reach five million in sales in America. And when Ford unveiled the all-new 2002 Explorer in January 2001, it was equipped with additional safety features that eventually led to its being recommended for the first time by the highly respected Consumer Reports magazine in its annual auto issue for 2004.

To make the new Explorer safer, Ford fitted it with the Safety Canopy, a head-protecting side-curtain airbag system covering the first and second seating rows. The side-curtain airbags are integrated with a new rollover detection system that automatically deploys them should the vehicle tilt over beyond a certain predetermined angle. (However, the Safety Canopy is an option and not included in the Eddie Baeur Explorer sold in Manila.)

Best pick

In 2002, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration gave the Explorer a 4-star (driver)/5-star (front passenger) Best-in-Class rating for front crash test performance. The Explorer was also named a "Best Pick" by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in its offset frontal crash test evaluation

Starting with the 2004 model, Ford installed a tire pressure monitoring system and a reverse sensor as standard equipment in the Explorer. Anti-Lock 4-wheel disc brakes with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), driver and front-passenger airbags, height-adjustable safety belts, remote illuminated and keyless entry and an antitheft system have been standard equipment in the Explorer all along. The 2004 Explorer is substantially the same as the 2002 model. The Explorer, in fact, will not undergo any major changes until 2006.

Aside from its award-winning safety features, what makes the Explorer America's best-selling SUV? The answer can be summed up in four words: power, strength, comfort and agility. The 4.0-liter SOHC V6 engine mated to a 5-speed automatic transmission with overdrive in the Eddie Baeur 4x4 Explorer launched here last year smoothly delivers max 210 horsepower at 5,100 rpm and 344 Nm max torque at 3,700 rpm. The Explorer can accelerate from standstill to 100 km/hr in 10.2 seconds, according to Ford, and I'm inclined to believe it. Built Ford-tough with a rigid frame, the Explorer is strong enough to tow up to 3,400 lbs.

Comfort zone

The Explorer's four-wheel independent suspension with coil springs and stabilizer bars front and rear makes it one of the most comfortable SUVs to drive or ride. NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) levels are reduced and the cabin stays almost as quiet as a car's on the road. Dual zone aircon controls, steering wheel-mounted audio and climate controls, power-adjustable pedals (for short drivers), a trip computer, convenient storage bins, four cupholders, two power points and a six-disc in-dash CD changer with seven speakers including a subwoofer further enhance the Explorer's Eddie Baeur-elegant comfort zone. The gauges are clearly marked, easy to reach and attractively illuminated in orange when you switch the lights on at night.

THE SECOND row seats can accommodate three adults and split at 40/20/40 for easy access to the third row or increased cargo space.

A midsize SUV, the Explorer is almost as roomy as a full-size one. The Eddie Baeur Explorer comfortably seats seven, including driver, with leather-trimmed captain's seats in front, a 40/20/40 reclining and fold-flat-capable second row and a bench seat in the back that can accommodate two adults. However, access to the third row of seats is not that easy and cargo room is limited unless you fold flat the third row.

For a truck-type midsize SUV, the Explorer is surprisingly agile, thanks again to its fully independent suspension. Despite some body lean in turns, the Explorer handled well and felt stable even at 160 km/hr on the traffic-free Skyway. Its relatively compact turning circle makes it easier to maneuver and park than its fellow American competitor, the Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT.

Control Trac

Shod with all-terrain tires and equipped with Ford's Control Trac 4WD system, the Explorer traverses wet, muddy or gravel-covered roads capably. Control Trac is an automatic 4-wheel-drive system that operates primarily in rear-drive until slippage is detected by sensors and torque is transferred to the front wheels to correct the lack of traction. Control Trac is operated via push buttons whereby the driver can choose 4WD Hi or 4WD Low as well as the Auto 4WD setting. While it can ford flooded areas (its ground clearance is a full inch higher than the preceding generation's) and tackle rough terrain, the Explorer was not built to be a serious off-roader like the Land Rover Discovery II or the Hummer H1.

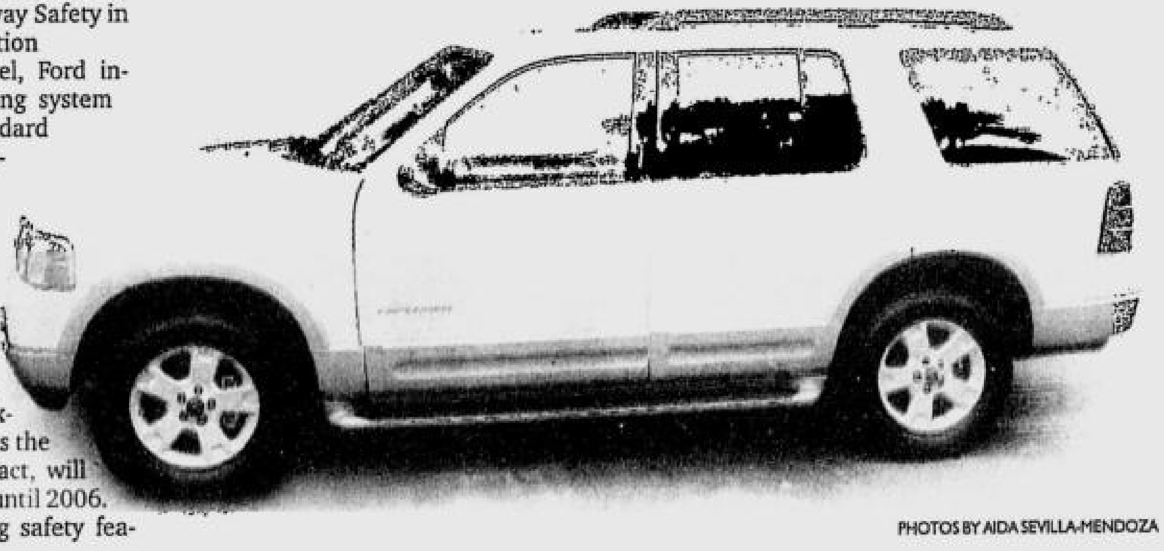
Summing up, the Eddie Baeur Explorer pleases in many ways with its competent performance both on-road and off-road, its roominess, de luxe creature comforts and conveniences, its strength, agility and array of safety features. Its only drawback is that it guzzles a lot of gasoline. If you don't watch out, you'll find yourself dreaming of owning the Explorer until its P2.295 million price tag jolts you back to reality.

* * *

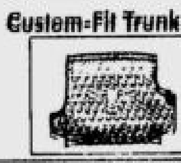
TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Money won't buy friends, but you get a better class of enemy. — *Spike Milligan*

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA



DEFLECTOR®
HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS
PLATE SECURITY COVER
"The Original Design-Elegant & Durable"
The ultimate classy-look, high-quality plate cover made from the best material!
Perfect elegance
FRONT FAME: 100% SS304 Stainless, Mirror Finished Chrome
(OTHERS: Low Grade Chrome Plastic)
CENTER COVER: High Grade Acrylic Material with Anti-UV Treatment.
(Will not become blurred nor brittle, longer life compared to imitation and cheaper types)
BACK PLATE: 100% High Grade ABS Material (Resistant to warping, color fading, nor cracks when under prolong exposure to sun's ultraviolet rays)
FASTENERS: Easy to remove Stainless Screws (no hassle for annual vehicle registration stickers or maintenance purposes).
(OTHERS: Side pin fasteners will become brittle, broken or deformed when detaching, aside from causing scratches to chrome plastic frame)
REPLACEMENT PARTS: Center cover replacement part available from hardware stores. Stainless screws available from stores specializing in fasteners.
LIFE: At least five(5) years.
"PATENTED PRODUCTS. VIOLATORS OF IPR LAW WILL BE PROSECUTED.
BEWARE OF LOOK ALIKE, LOW QUALITY PLATE COVER THAT LASTS ONLY 6 TO 8 MONTHS"
DEFLECTOR PLATE COVER IS A FILIPINO INVENTION AND OWNS AT LEAST SIX PATENTS SINCE 1998
Also Available:
Door Visor Weatherguard
Custom-Fit Trunk Tray
Patented by Primal Enterprises Corporation Tel: 743-7476,743-7435
Distributed by : Genuine Parts and Industrial Corporation 528 Banawe Cor Calamba St. Quezon City, M. Manila Tel: 412-3286
AVAILABLE AT ALL SM-ACE HARDWARE, TRUE VALUE, LANDMARK AND CAR ACCESSORIES SHOPS

Asian Formula 3 winners acknowledge technological edge from Yokohama tires

CHRISTIAN Alan Jones, 2004 Asian Formula 3 Series champion; John O'Hara, AF3 Driver of the Year; and Tyson Sy, Promotions Class champion and the AF3 Promotions Class Driver of the Year all had varying opinions about the track conditions and controversial circumstances surrounding this year's races. But a common thread among the three drivers is their opinion on how their tires performed in 2004.

"The particular characteristic I like about the Yokohama tires is the great levels of grip," said Jones of the Christian Jones Motorsport team. "We race at different circuits throughout Asia, and Yokohama has developed a great tire that works on all circuits, in varied conditions," he added.

Maximizing tire life

Said O'Hara, who drives for the Shell Kinetic F3 team: "I liked the consistency of the Yokohamas. From brand new till the end of the life of the tire, the drop in performance was minimal, allowing us to maximize tire life. The new compound they developed provided tremendous grip that allowed us to set new F3 lap records in various Asian circuits."

O'Hara bagged the Batangas Racing Circuit lap time record of 1 minute 23.8 seconds and the Subic Circuit lap time record of 1 minute 10.1 seconds this year.

The 17-year-old Sy of Castrol Ambi Pur Team Goddard had similar comments. "[The Yokohamas] provided consistent grip through a wide range of conditions. It was as if the car was turning on rails. They allowed me to be more confident in taking the car to its limits," said Sy. Yokohama has been the exclusive tire supplier for the AF3 races since 2003.

First time

The last leg of this year's series proved to be interesting as three Asians took podium place finishes at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC). Indonesia's Ananda Mikola finished first with a time of 25 minutes and 48.6 seconds followed by two Filipinos: Sy (25:56.5) and Pepon Marave (26:06.6).

Marave made a podium finish from tenth position on the starting grid. O'Hara (Ireland) and Jones (Australia) made heavy contact with each other in the fourth lap and both were knocked out of the race.

It was the first time Asians took the top three spots in an Asian F3 race.

Ride, rule and zoom with Castrol

BIKE savvy Pinoys, two-wheel enthusiasts, scooter lovers, big bikers, superbike regulars, riders' clubs and road racers all over the country who use Castrol motor oil products to provide their engines optimum protection can now enjoy the perks and privileges of being part of the exclusive Castrol Zoom Club.

Special benefits and juicy discounts await Castrol Zoom Club members in more than 200 participating merchants in key cities all over the country.

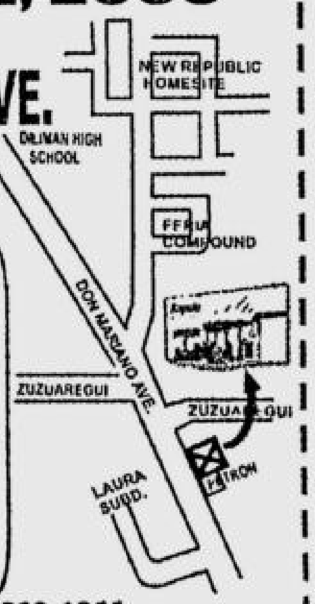
All they need to do is purchase any of the participating Castrol motorcycle oil products and take out the Castrol Zoom Club card shrink-wrapped to the product.

Buy any of the participating Castrol motorcycle products—Activ 4T, GO! 4T, R4 Superbike, Power 1, Activ 2T and GO! 2T—and text in the code found on the membership card or the alpha-numeric sticker attached to the product and key in Castrolzoom to 2320 for Globe and Touch Mobile, and to 309 for Smart and Talk-n-Text subscribers.

Castrol motorcycle oil users have a chance of winning Suzuki Raider bikes, Canon Ixus digital cameras, Joe Rocket Alter Ego jackets, Rudy Project shades or a Ducati M620ie.

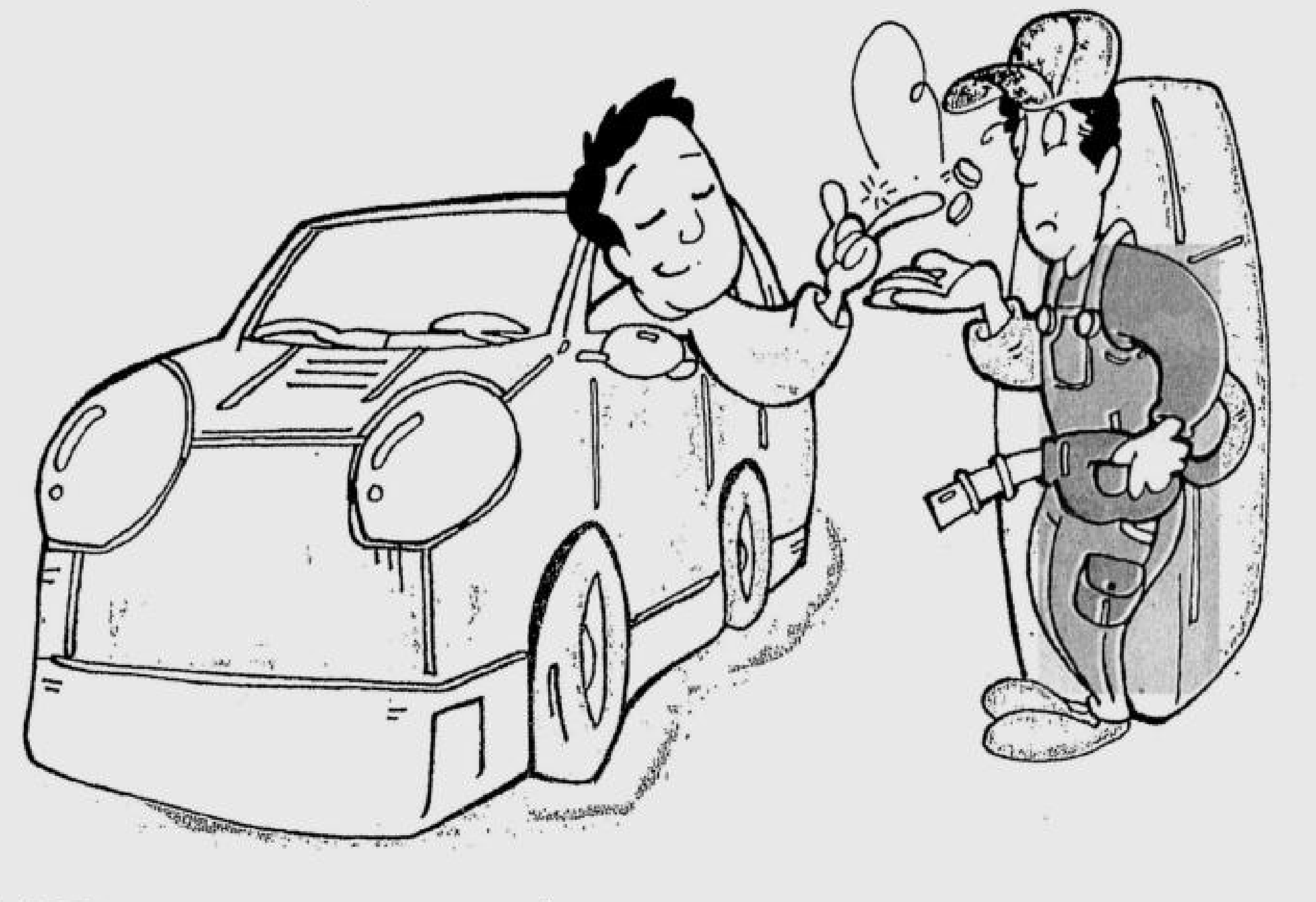
Log on to www.castrolzoomclub.com and be part of the privileged few or check out the site for more details.

Promo period is from Nov. 1, 2004 to Jan. 31.



Rapidé
AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS
EXPANDING OUR NETWORK TO SERVE YOU BETTER
GRAND OPENING
JANUARY 12, 2005
at
COMMONWEALTH AVE.
BRGY. MATANDANG BALARA, Q.C.
☎ 436-7650 • 436-7667
OIL & FILTER CHANGE
(for GASOLINE ENGINES)
- Up to 5 liters ACDelco Oil.
- New Oil Filter.
₱599 ONLY
. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.
. Offer good to passenger cars & light trucks.
. Not valid with any other coupon offers.
. Coupon valid until March 31, 2005.
. Valid to Rapide-Commonwealth branch only.
Rapide HOTLINE : (02) 899-1966
OPEN FOR FRANCHISING & FLEET APPLICATIONS.
NOBODY BEATS Rapidé. NOBODY.

Hybrid economics



CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE FUEL savings of hybrid vehicles are well documented in the world media. Everywhere one looks, in the major car magazines, the foreign TV shows and on the Internet, gasoline engines that are assisted or augmented by alternative sources of power, such as electricity, are widespread and are gaining a foothold in once purely gasoline-powered territory.

The public acceptance abroad of such cars as the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight, two of the first showroom available hybrids in the world, has been very warm. In fact more vehicles of this kind are now available in the United States, with more sure to follow in the future. Ford is actively selling the Escape HEV full hybrid light sport utility vehicle (SUV). While Lexus, the Toyota luxury brand, is pushing a hybrid version of its RX SUV and plans to release a performance sedan and a coupé sometime in the near future.

Honda, in 2005, now sells gasoline/electric versions of the very popular Accord and Civic platforms in the US market. GM, has taken the pickup route to display its hybrid technology and these can be seen in the Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks. These cars tout "almost as satisfactory" performance numbers as their gasoline-burning forebears but help ease the impact on owner's wallets, with better fuel economy, and on our environment because of markedly lower carbon emissions.

Not in RP yet

Why do hybrids seem to be everywhere but the Philippines? Possibly because hybrids are expensive vehicles, and would demand a significant premium over their gasoline- or diesel-powered stable mates. The said 2.3-liter Ford Escape HEV 4x4 retails for US$28,500 while the equivalent 2.3-liter 4x4 gasoline version is sold for $24,000. The $4,500 difference is substantial (somewhere in the P250,000 range) but government incentives in the United States cut that difference to about half with a US$2,000 subsidy.

The hybrid does 33 miles per gallon (14 km per liter) and the gasoline version does 19 miles per gallon (8 km per liter) in mixed urban and highway use. This represents a 73 percent increase in fuel efficiency of the hybrid over the gas version and very well translates into money in the driver's pocket at the end of the day. Yet beyond being merely beneficial to the owner and the environment, hybrids can also help in the macro economic sense.

Trade deficit

The release of hybrid vehicles in the Philippines is critical because we are a third world country with an absurd overdependence on imported petroleum products. A great part of the Philippine trade deficit is due to the amount of petroleum that we have to import to sustain industry, commerce and transportation. We have nothing that we export that can cope with the volume of resources used to pay for our fuels. Therefore, if a major auto manufacturer would allow hybrid vehicles to be easily accepted by the motoring populace (either by impeccable marketing/aggressive pricing/outright subsidy), then we could reduce the amount of oil that we use and lower our trade deficit with other countries.

Any reduction in the deficit, however small, is a step in the right direction. The manufacturers should think of this endeavor as a experiment where industry and technology can have a direct impact on the economy and the development of a third world country. This could well possibly be the greatest community relations project in the world. I can see a Nobel Prize for an enterprise like this in the future. In their own way the vehicle manufacturers can play a further part in building our nation.

For more information on hybrid fuel economy in the United States, please browse http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/hybrid_sbs.shtml, a joint website of the US Department of Energy and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

CORRECTION: Good news for the Filipino motorist. Sarao, the iconic jeepney builder, is still open. In reaction to last week's column that mentioned "the sadly defunct Sarao," I received an e-mail and production photos from Ed Sarao showing otherwise. Sarao can be reached at 874-7598, 874-7885, 874-7604 or via e-mail at saraocraft@yahoo.com.

***

For comments, e-mail the author at scandyflick@yahoo.com

With Carvio, no trip will be too long

CARVIO Mobile Entertainment System is perfect for AUVs, SUVs and vans. Its hassle-free connection with your FM radio or A/V system ensures compatibility with almost all types of vehicles.

YEARS ago, entertaining your kids during a road trip literally meant stretching the limits of your patience as well as your imagination. Instead of arriving at your destination excited and energetic, you're burnt out from trying all sorts of ways to keep your children from getting bored.

But thanks to revolutionary video technology, you can now keep the kids entertained and keep your sanity intact for the entire trip.

In-car entertainment craze

The DVD player, which skyrocketed to fame as the fastest-selling home consumer electronics device in history, is fueling the in-car entertainment craze, one of the fastest-growing areas of mobile electronics.

CarVio Mobile Entertainment System is the latest system on the market today. It is designed to provide the ultimate in-car entertainment while remaining reasonably priced and easy to use. This next-generation system is expected to set a new standard in vehicle mobile digital entertainment.

This state-of-the-art, all-in-one system includes everything you need for a convenient multimedia setup. It features a DVD, VCD, CD, CD-RW, MP3 and WMA compatible player that can be easily mounted on the roof/headliner (typically two hours' installation). It has its own built-in dome lights. Its retractable overhead 10.2-inch wide-screen LCD monitor folds down for easy viewing and folds up for storage when not in use.

The unit is perfect for AUVs, SUVs and vans. Its hassle-free connection with your FM radio or A/V system ensures compatibility with almost all types of vehicles.

Features

Among CarVio's other features are high-resolution wide screen; antishock and antimoisture mechanism; 16:9 multiaspect ratio; MPEG and JPEG playback; last scene memory playback; and infra-red wireless transmitter function; and 3D sound effects with equalizer.

Its other features are multiregion capability; full function remote control with on screen display; videoke/karaoke function with microphone input; auto power off and sleep mode; and 2 audio-video inputs plus 1 audio-video output and video zoom function.

Watching movies or playing video games is a great way to provide instant entertainment for your passengers. From long trips with kids in the backseat to family picnics, you're assured that no journey will ever be too long again!

CarVio is exclusively distributed by Maxx-Energie Ventures Corp. and available at Daytona Auto Accessories and RoadWorth. For a free product demo or for more information, please call 817-6317 or 892-8980.

LTO earns P1.76M in VLP online bidding

A TOTAL of 32 vanity license plates (VLP) were successfully bid out by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), earning for the agency P1.76 million in revenues from the recently concluded VLP online bidding .

The bidding project, which was conducted from Nov. 24 to Dec. 16, was enabled by the region's premier sourcing, procurement and supply chain services provider, BayanTrade, through access by LTO and bid participants' access to its leading electronic bidding facility.

Vanity plates consisting of four to six identical characters—either letters or numbers—were bid out at a base price of P50,000. A total of 16 bidders participated and were able to purchase a total of 32 vanity plates.

Record bid

The record bid went to license plate 111111, which was sold for P88,000. Since the bid was set up to allow participants to bid for more than one license plate, some of the bidders became multiple VLP owners with one of the bidders getting four vanity license plates.

The VLP online bidding was the first electronic bidding conducted by LTO. It was jointly undertaken by BayanTrade, the region's premier sourcing, procurement and supply chain services provider, with Digital Paradise Inc., the owner of more than 120 Netopia Internet Cafés nationwide and Stradcom Corp., which manages the computerization of the LTO's operations and processes.

MEMO OF AGREEMENT
The Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), organizer of the Car of the Year Philippines, and Worldbex International, organizer of the 2005 Manila Motor Show, recently signed a memorandum of agreement on the Car of the Year Awards Night to be held Feb. 25 in Makati. Cagi president Armin Amio (third from left) shake hands with Jill Ang, Worldbex managing director, after the signing, which was witnessed by (from left) Cagi vice president Aris Ilagan and director Aida Sevilla Mendoza, Worldbex project coordinator Teresa Morales and Cagi director Andre Palma.

Kia opens 2 new dealerships

COLUMBIAN Autocar Corp. recently announced the opening of Kia's two new dealerships—one in Quezon City and the other in Manila—to better serve the needs of its growing number of customers in these areas in Metro Manila.

The Quezon City dealership on Quezon Avenue is operated and managed by Femac Marketing Inc., while the Manila outlet on Quirino Avenue in Paco is run by M3 Marti Unlimited Inc. Both dealers offer a wide range of Kia cars, trucks and all-purpose vehicles, notably the new Kia Sorento Diesel, the KC 27 Carryall and CAC's newest bestseller, the Kia Picanto.

CAC chief operating officer Felix J. Mabilog Jr., says the new dealerships will provide better access for customers wishing to acquire not only Kia's wide range of vehicle models, but also for genuine parts and after-sales service.

Femac Marketing's Kia dealership is at 113 Quezon Ave., Quezon City and can be reached through 411-9032 and 412-0034.

M3 Marti is at 1170 Quirino Ave., Paco, Manila, with cell phone 0917-537-5981.

Pre-Owned
Mercedes-Benz

1995 Mercedes-Benz S500
Saloon, Midnight Blue
30,436 km Php 1,600,00

1998 Mercedes-Benz SLK230K
Elegance, Yellowstone
15,315 km Php 1,500,000

2001 Mercedes-Benz E240
Elegance, Brilliant Silver
44,834 km Php 2,000,000

1996 Mercedes-Benz E230
Elegance, Travertine Beige
63,636 km Php 1,200,000

2001 Mercedes-Benz C240
Elegance, Travertine Beige
11, 825 km Php 2,100,000

2002 Mercedes-Benz C240
Elegance , Tanzanite Blue
33,541 km Php 2,000,000

1996 Mercedes-Benz E230
Elegance, Alabaster White
45,021 km Php 1,100,000

2000 Mercedes-Benz ML270CDI
Off-Roader, Opal Brown
51,752 km Php 2,200,000

2003 Mercedes-Benz E240
Avantgarde, Brilliant Silver
9,950 km Php 3,750,000

CATS
CATS Motors, Inc. Global City
32nd St. cor. Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig M.M. Tel: 815 7777 Fax: 815 9153
CATS Motors, Inc. Greenhills
1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. Tel: 723 5808 Fax: 726 7741

Motown hums to new designs . . .

From page B2-1

if you ask Organization Internationale des Constructers d'Automobiles, a Paris-based alliance of automotive trade associations and manufacturers around the world. The group has sanctioned no other US auto show except this one.

The world's leading automotive manufacturer and one of the main proponents of alternative fuel-powered cars, General Motors, had planed in over 250 journalists worldwide—including 17 motoring journalists from Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. On the first day in US soil, these journalists were toured around the Automotive Hall of Fame, where authentic artifacts were exhibited and a comprehensive account of automobile history was presented.

Hybrid bus shuttles also gave free rides, at intervals of 30 minutes, to and from the GM Renaissance Center and the Marriott Hotel in Detroit, where the 250 journalists have been billeted. The GM Renaissance Center's People Mover Station is one of the 13 stops in the 2.9-mile elevated rail system that loops around downtown Troy's business and entertainment districts and Cobo Center.

Footnotes: In past North American International Auto shows, GM invited only one motoring journalist from the Philippines at a time. This year, the automotive giant had invited three. Talk has it that this is a strong indication that GM is performing better than expected in the Philippine market, reaping the fruits of the strong sales of its Chevy Optra, which has claimed third place in a Japanese-dominated sedan market.

Marriott Hotel's 71st and 72nd floors offer a spectacular view of snow-covered Detroit and Windsor, Canada.

Had the weather been more pleasant, Asian journalists would have had the pleasure of a walk-through of the south side of the Renaissance Center—the GM Wintergarden where a river plaza and a promenade would lead to authentic Italian specialty stores and restaurants. Not all Italian, though. Pure Detroit, for example, offers unique Motor city goods, souvenirs and logo merchandise.

Motown is short for "motor town," the moniker for Detroit as the automobile hub of the United States. Music lovers, however, would be more familiar with the Motown name associated to the unique blend of jazz and blues music known as "the Motown sound" (one famous example, Berry Gordy's "My Girl") starting in the late 1950s up to the '70s.

Detroit is also home to NBA champs Detroit Pistons. And on that note, there is a possibility that Naias could get national coverage from NBC Sports in the future.

to be young • to be you • to be

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

SILKY-SMOOTH.
HAIR-FREE
LEGS.

Call the Facial Care
Centre for LaserLight
892 SKIN (7546)

LET IT SNOW, let it snow, let it snow. Even grownups can't resist the charm of the adorable penguins.

PHOTOS BY BOY CABRIDO

Frolic in ice, touch penguins and find out how you can save the ozone layer at the Penguin Summit 2005

Waddling ambassadors

PENGUIN PALS. Kids get close to their new feathered friends.

By Pam Pastor

THE SCENE was surreal.

I leaned into the pool of water and ran my hand over the penguin's back. It paused for a moment before swimming off. It was magnificent, it looked like it was flying underwater.

I continued to gaze at it, marveling at the bird's gracefulness, but two other penguins had floated closer to me, seemingly asking for attention. I rubbed their backs and stroked their heads as well, cooing the whole time. When they had enough, they swam off, but it wasn't long before more friendly penguins came toward me, waiting to be touched. It felt like a dream.

But it wasn't. Six sweet penguins are here in Manila—and for good reason. They have an important message for us.

The message was painted in big letters on a wall behind them: "Our region, one of the cleanest areas in the world, is now having a problem caused by [a] big hole in the ozone layer resulting [in] global warming and melting of icebergs in our areas... Someday all land will be under the sea. Let's avoid [this] from happening."

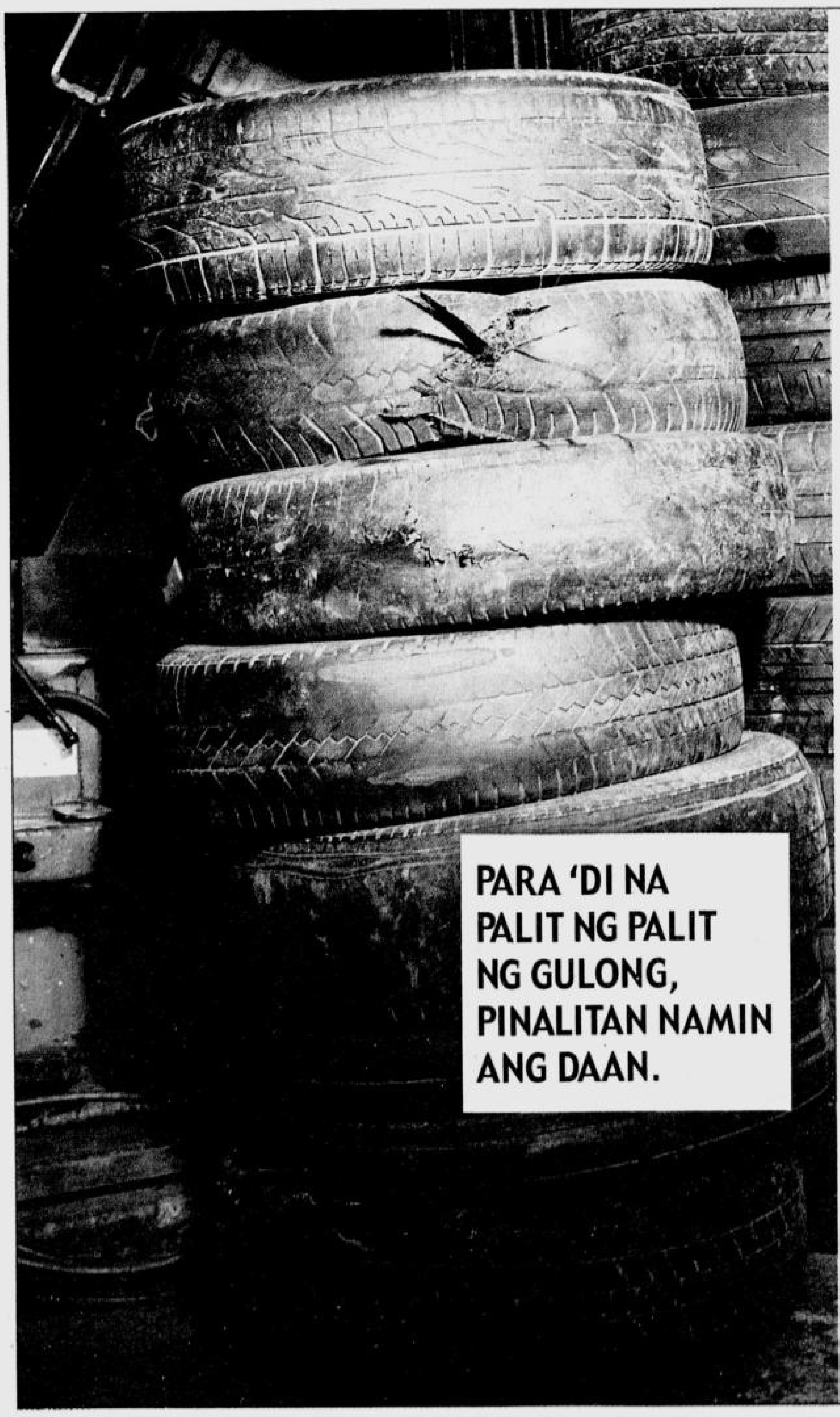
The adorable penguins act as ambassadors for the conservation of the ozone layer, in behalf of countless beautiful animals in the Antarctic affected by people's environmental neglect. Ecos Environmental Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Japan, brought them to promote awareness about the importance of keeping the ozone layer intact.

"We want to intensify the world's campaign for the preservation of the ozone layer. So much of the damage comes from ground level activities, the pollution from the exhaust of vehicles, factories and air-conditioners," says Timi Abad, Corporate Secretary of Ecos.

This information isn't new to us. Even our grade school Science teachers had been keen on campaigning about the significance of protecting the ozone layer. But there is a vast difference between just knowing and taking action. Attending the Penguin Summit is a good first step.

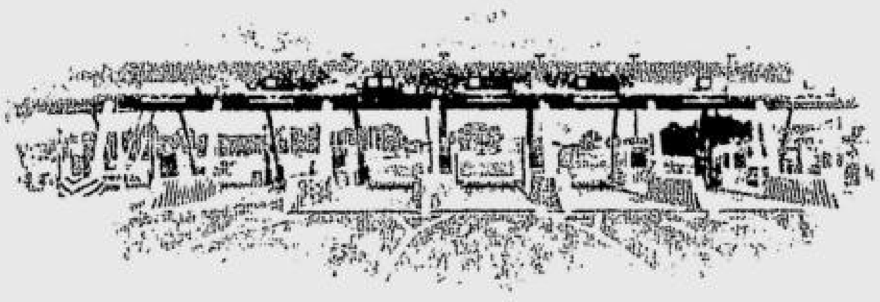
"Ecos would like to give people the chance

WADDLING/ C2



PARA 'DI NA PALIT NG PALIT NG GULONG, PINALITAN NAMIN ANG DAAN.

NEW NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
Maginhawang biyahe, maginhawang buhay.



BAWI KA SA BAGONG NLE!

Magastos ang magpalit ng gulong. Kaya naman, inayos na ang North Luzon Expressway para 'di madaling mapudpod ang gulong at mas alaga ang inyong sasakyan. Sa bagong NLE, mas maginhawa na, nakatipid ka pa!

The new rehabilitated NLE is brought to you by
Manila North Tollways Corporation

SAILBOATS on the beach

PRESS class picture

Time and tide

By JR Victorio
2bU! Correspondent

Omega's new Aqua Terra Chronograph was launched with an exciting Hobie Cat Race in Subic

OMEGA, a leader in the field of sports timing, recently launched its new timepiece, the Aqua Terra Chronograph, with a sailing competition called "On Sail" Hobie Cat Race in Subic. The event was attended by professional sailors, well-known celebrities and selected members of the media.

Omega has been at the forefront of divers' watch development for over 70 years, with its Seamaster line earning a reputation for renowned dependability.

Today, the Seamaster is the definitive watch for those whose world revolves around the sea, a world where timekeeping is crucial.

On the other hand, hobie sailing is a fun and exciting sport that can encompass any age bracket, gender or even size. And this is why Omega has chosen to promote the sport to Filipinos.

The day before the race, celebrities and media people were given a crash course on hobie sailing. Later on, participants were given the chance to practice with their respective teams.

That evening, Omega introduced the new Seamaster Aqua Terra line through a dinner at the Subic Yacht club. Brand representatives said they are currently looking for a local endorser who would join the ranks of Cindy Crawford, Anna Kournikova, Pierce Brosnan, Michael Schumacher and Ellen MacArthur as Omega spokespersons.

Next morning was the competition proper. Up for grabs were three Omega Seamaster Aqua Terra timepieces pegged at about P200,000 each. Fun, of course, was the No. 1 objective in the event, but the watch came in a close second.

IAN Veneracion's winning form

Team 8 had George Wang, Alex Gatpandan and Carlos de la Pasion, while Team 12 had Rex Puentespina, Shintaro Valdez and Alvin Puga. Nestor Soriano, Ian Veneracion and Tanya Garcia comprised Team 27. At sail No. 33 were Charlie Clement, Marie Calica and Jimwell Stevens.

The youngest skipper, Andrea Levinge, headed Team 36, which also included Earl Bracamonte and Andrew Schimmer. Jun Villuaneva helmed for Team 39, with Rome Jorge and Margaret Wilson, while Jomari Yllana was in Team 41 with Noel Lim and Ronald Singson.

Among other notable participants were Alfred Vargas, Jake Cuenca, Nadia Montenegro, Mark Haswell, Mari Ugarte, Tintin Arnaldo, Johannes Zehethofer, Angelu de Leon and Antonio Aquitania.

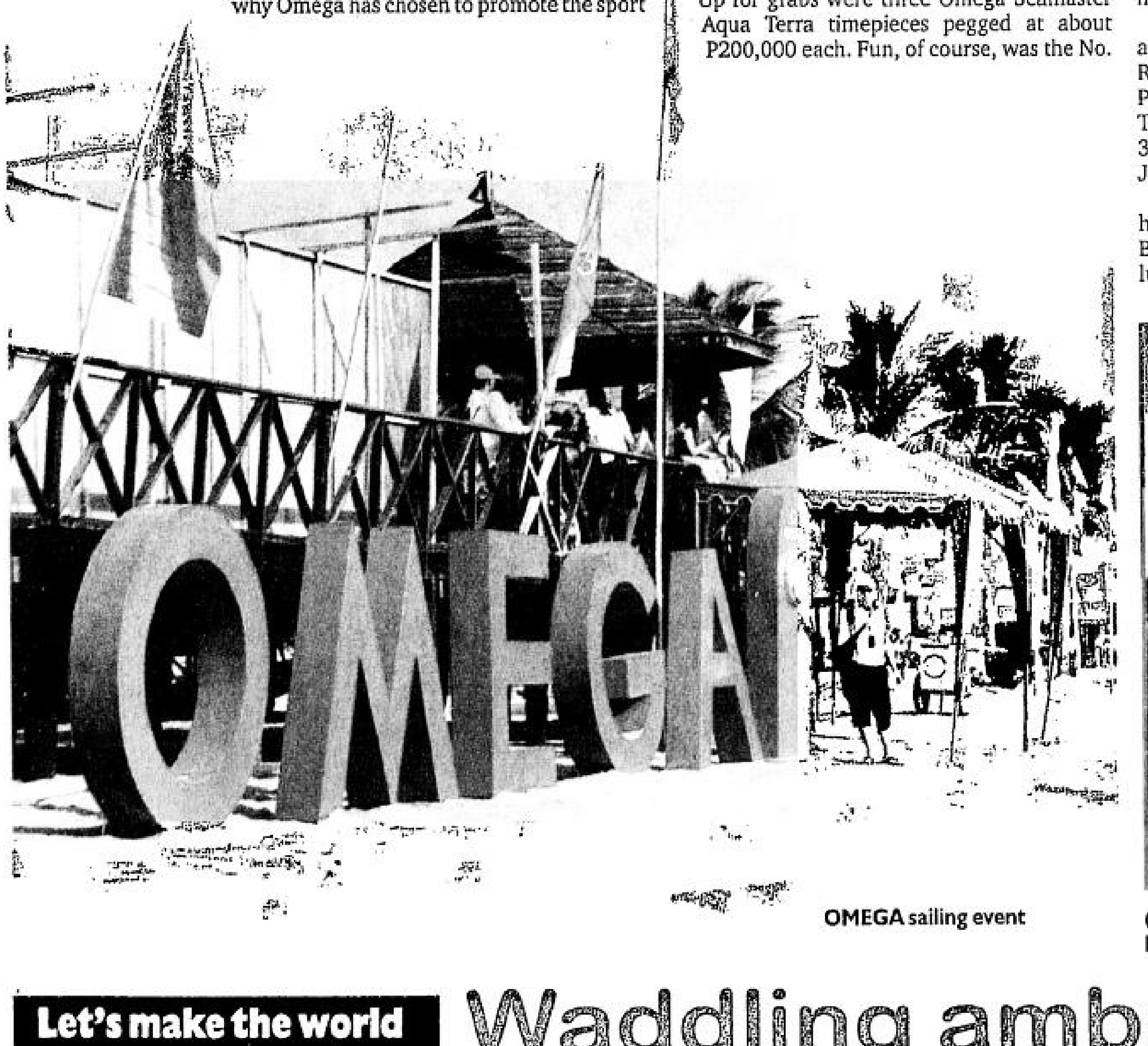
Three teams soon monopolized the top three spots in the race, though the rest managed to finish each of the six races. Boats capsized, others got trapped in a dead wind zone, but the teams continued to cheer for each other.

As the last fleet touched ashore, crowds gathered to meet the 14 teams who braved the winds and waves of Subic.

Finishing first after six races was Team 27, followed by Team 84 and Team 33. Almost making it to the top three was Team 87, which was only a point behind Team 33.

Bringing home Omega Aqua Terra Chronograph watches were Nestor Soriano, Ian Veneracion and Tanya Garcia. Together with the second and third placers, the three victors also took home a glass trophy designed by sculptor Bobby Castillo.

Email the author at jr_victorio@yahoo.com



OMEGA sailing event

(FRONT row) Winners Nestor Soriano, Tanya Garcia, Ian Veneracion; (back row) Joey Marquez, Oliver Hugentobler, Marilen Nunez, Martin Lacson and Jomari Yllana

Let's make the world penguin-friendly

Be a protector of the ozone layer. How? Let us count the ways

1. Have your car's engine checked for excessive smoke emission. Encourage your friends to do the same.
2. Avoid using products that contain CFC. Check the labels.
3. Report smoke belchers to the authorities.
4. Do not burn plastic and rubber. Dispose of them properly.
5. If it's not terribly warm, lessen your use of the air-conditioner.
6. Keep your eyes open for factories that are contributing to air pollution. Report them.
7. Do not use hairspray. (Who still does anyway?)

Waddling ambassadors

From page C1

to enjoy these lovable creatures while learning about the importance of taking care of the environment," says Abad.

First of its kind

The Penguin Summit, which is the first of its kind, is divided into different areas. There's the exhibit which displays environmentally inspired drawings of children from different learning centers and information about the cause and the different organizations involved. This is also where people can watch penguin videos and read about these amazing creatures.

Then there's Snowland, which gives people a little taste of life in the Antarctic, thanks to snowmaking machines brought in from Japan.

On the day of our visit, there was a huge snowman complete with coal eyes and a scarf in the center of the play area, and little kids and not-so-little kids (grown men, actually) were busy running around, throwing snowballs at one another. It's not every day that one gets to experience snow in Manila—but then again, this is a special cause.

The best part is the area where people can watch the penguins up close and interact with them. The six friendly jackass penguins are really worth the trip. Giggle as they waddle, marvel at how they suddenly transform into epitomes of gracefulness underwater, wait for their belly flop and wonder why they seem to constantly move in a group.

You can also watch them eat—if you're lucky enough to arrive during feeding time.

"They're well taken care of," says Abad. "Everything, from their temperature to their food intake, is monitored."

Entrance fee is P100 for adults and P80 for kids—not a big price to pay for a double dose of fun and education.

This is not just about grabbing the chance to frolic in ice and touch penguins, while the experience does leave a lasting mark. It is a reminder that we affect millions of other creatures when we fail to take care of our world.

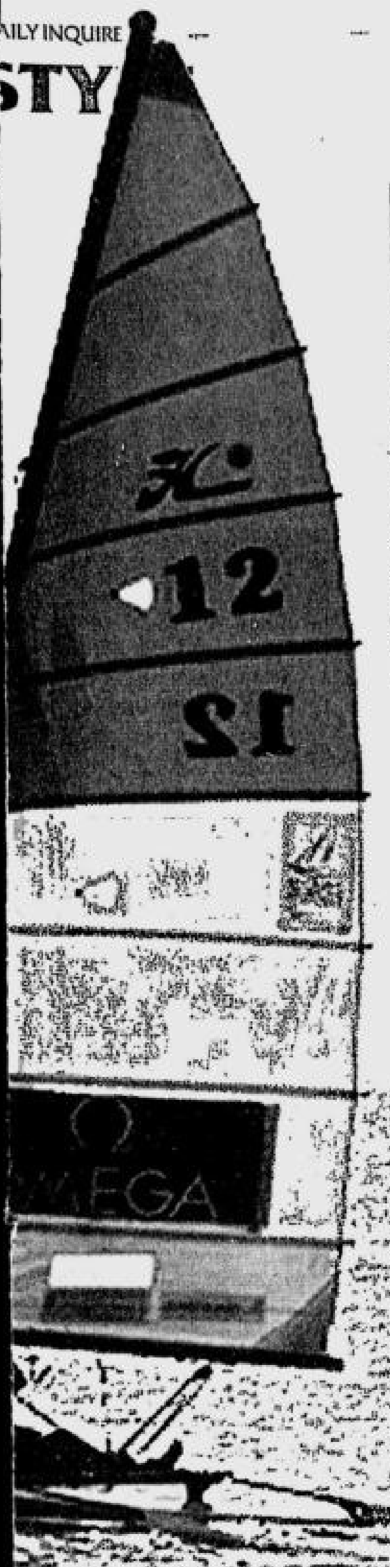
Believe me, looking into our feathered friends' eyes will give you enough reason to do everything you can to save the ozone layer—and the rest of the planet.

According to Abad, this is exactly what the Penguin Summit aims to achieve. "We would like to touch people's hearts. We don't want to demand anything. We want them to decide what they can do for the environment."

Visit The Penguin Summit at the Harrison Plaza Mall, along Adriatico and Mabini Streets until March 2005. Call 8132678 or fax 8937228.

We publish stories about young people and groups who are trying to make a difference. You can submit articles or send us suggestions at ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Because age is not a hindrance, it's a springboard for change.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



OUT on the sea

TESTING the water

READY to sail off

The Spa January Promotion

Be a member of the prestigious
"The Spa Fitness Center".

Apply for the **Annual Gym Membership** and be a **Badminton Member absolutely free!**

What more! Be the first 100 enrollees to avail of this once in a lifetime package and grab this rare opportunity to get **one deluxe massage** for **free!**

** Available at The Spa Acropolis Branch Only.*

Hurry! Promo runs until
January 31, 2005 only!

Relax, Rejuvenate & Revitalize

Enjoy more with our new exciting monthly promos available in all four branches.

Package 1: Heaven on Earth Package
Executive Massage
Moor Spa Hair and Scalp Treatment

Package 2: Radiance Package
Phytomer Facial
Peppermint Foot Reflex and Foot Scrub

Package 3: Beauty and Balance Package
Herbal Massage Treatment
Aromafacial Massage

The Spa

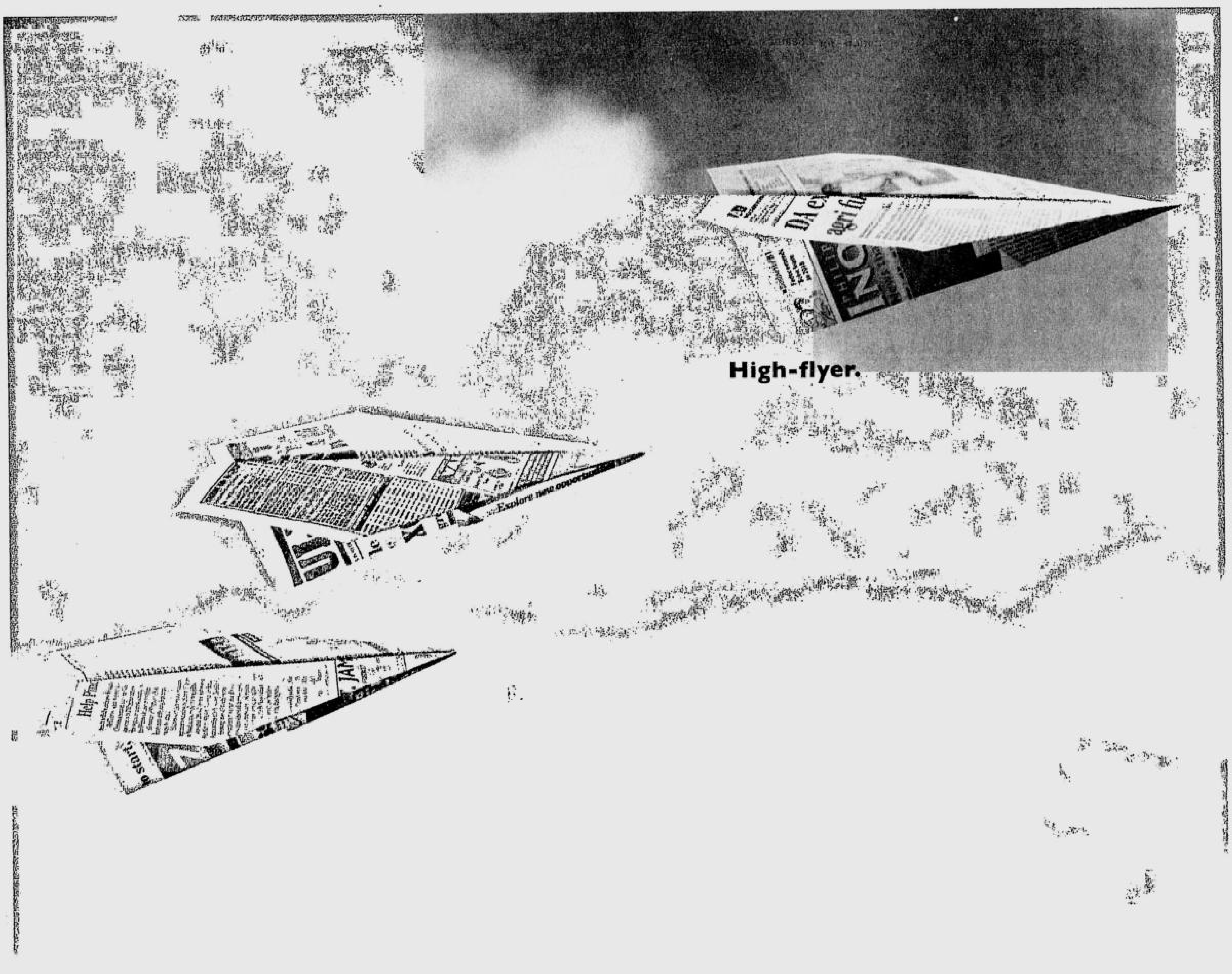
ACROPOLIS
#80 E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave.
Libis, Quezon City
Tel. nos. 6342848/6342709/
6371935

ALABANG
Lower Ground, Alabang
Town Ctr.Alabang,
Muntinlupa City
Tel. nos. 8503490/8506604

BEL-AIR
50 Jupiter St.,
Bel-Air Village
Makati City
Tel. nos. 8955858/8956868

GREENBELT
G/F Greenbelt Drive Entrance
Greenbelt 1, Ayala Ctr.
Makati City
Tel. nos. 8401325/8401326

www.thespa.com.ph • e-mail: thespa@thespa.com.ph



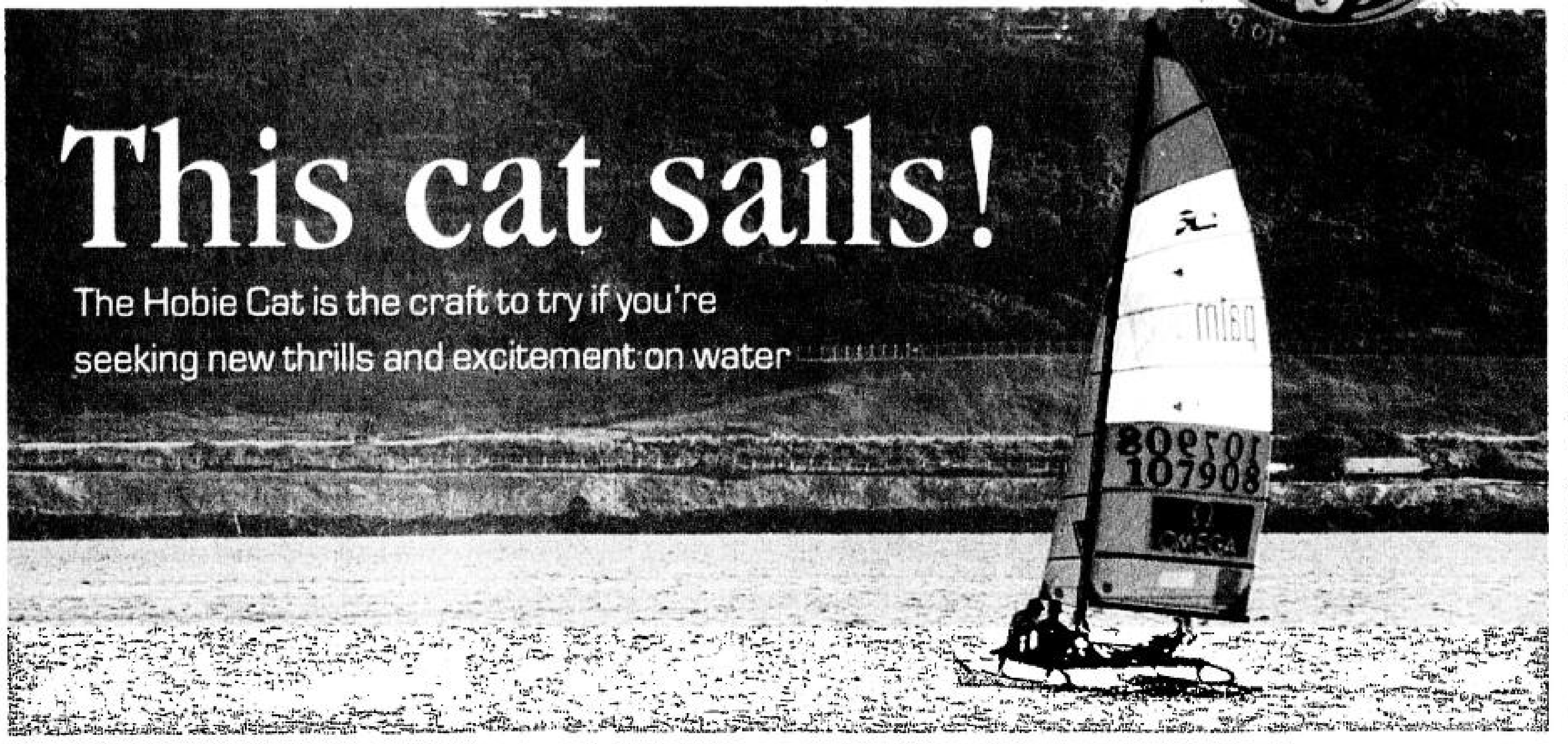
For ten straight years now, Inquirer flies high in the readership surveys. Besting all other newspapers as the broadsheet most bought and read nationwide, according to the 2003 Nielsen Media Research Survey. We owe it to you - dear readers, advertisers and partners - for always keeping us at the top as we deliver nothing less than balanced news and fearless views.

Nielsen
Media Research
727-3701 to 20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

This cat sails!

The Hobie Cat is the craft to try if you're seeking new thrills and excitement on water



By JR Victorio
2bU! Correspondent

I'M no cat lover. But faster than you can say "meow," I've fallen in love with an extraordinary cat, one that swims 26 miles per hour.

Sleeker than a raft and definitely cheaper than an amphibious Gibbs Aquada, the Hobie Cat is the craft to try if you're seeking new thrills and excitement on water.

Although a relatively unpopular sport, sailing is slowly gaining enthusiasts—but only among the wealthy few. Consider shelling out roughly US$7,000 for the starter kit of the craft and its accessories.

The Hobie 16 is a classic catamaran design. It is considered the finest small catamaran made for all-around performance, fun, convenience and function. Given these, plus a little coordination and the will to learn, anybody of any age can sail.

Proof of this is the diverse group that I was in during one sailing event in Subic recently.

Sailing is not the type of activity that can be learned in its entirety in a short time, but by the end of just one day, you'll know enough of the basics of safety and maneuvers to give you a good start and let you have fun out there on the water.

Catamaran sailing is, by definition, a wet sport. Many sailors also like to wear something on their feet and knees to prevent scrapes and cuts. From all the mat burns and coral cuts that I got, I knew I was underdressed for this during the event.

For four hours, as the one in charge of pulling and releasing ropes that controlled the jib, I was on all fours most of the time trying to avoid the boom, a long swinging horizontal pole of the mainsail, which could knock me off the boat.

Staying afloat

Since this is a water sport, it is important for any sailor to be able to stay afloat should his boat capsize. This was why we were compelled to wear uncomfortable Coast Guard-approved life jackets. We looked like pumpkins with those orange personal flotation devices provided, but I'd rather look stupid than to be at risk.

Small boats such as the Hobie Cat should be sailed within sight of land. Weather conditions could be erratic and one wouldn't want to be caught in a storm out in the open sea. Should the boat capsize, stay with your boat and don't try to swim to shore.

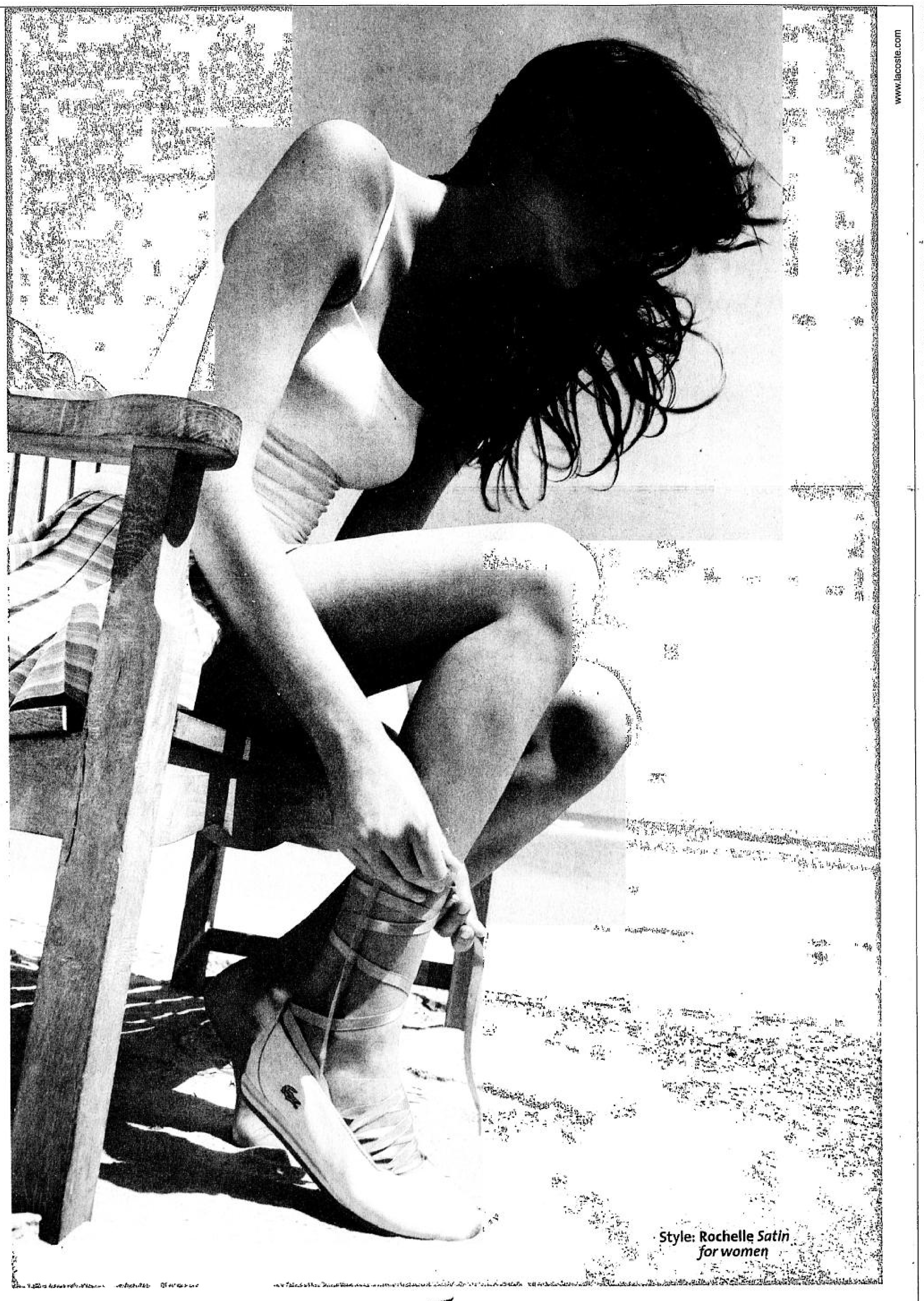
The wind plays an important role in the whole sailing experience. No wind, no go. As simple as that. The direction from which the wind comes will dictate your course. And how you maneuver your sails will depend on where the wind is coming and where you want to go.

To determine which direction the wind is coming from, watch flags or trees around the body of water on which you plan to sail. No wind at all means paddling your way back to shore.

After a while, I got the hang of everything. My sailor no longer needed to tell me what rope to pull or what adjustments I needed to do. It just came in naturally. Finally, I was one with the cat.

At the end of the day, my body felt like a rag doll dragged by a speedboat on water. But I loved every minute of it. I had found a new sport. Now let's all take on a new Hobie!

Email the author at jr_victorio@yahoo.com


www.lacoste.com
Style: Rochelle *Satin for women*
LACOSTE
FOOTWEAR
• SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, TEL. NO. 635-0744 • GLORIETTA 3, TEL. NO. 867-4077 • ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, TEL. NO. 522-7778
• THE POWER PLANT MALL, TEL. NO. 898-0933 • THE PODIUM, TEL. NO. 633-8226 • THE GATEWAY MALL, TEL. NO. 912-5726 • SM CITY DAVAO, TEL. NO. (082) 297-2510

P99
per dozen
DUNKIN' DONUTS
RAINBOW
Choco Rings

2BU!, CLOSE-UP AND CANON'S WHATTAMOUTH AWARDS

Great mouth moments

2bU! READERS, you blow us away.

For weeks, we asked you to send in fab pictures of your great mouth moments. You guys did your part—you whipped out your cameras and pored over your old albums and found the perfect photos. We were overwhelmed as your entries poured in.

There were scary photos, funny photos, silly photos and cute photos.

And although we wish we could make magic happen and let all of you win, we had to pick our favorites.

Here are the eight lucky weekly winners who will be bringing home Close-Up gift packs, Canon Pixma IP1000 Printers and Converse Gift Certificates worth P2,000, and the grand prize winner who will also win a Canon Powershot A400 digital camera and P5,000 worth of gift certificates from Converse.

And to thank the rest of you for participating in Close-Up's quest for another world record, all entries will automatically qualify for use in Close-Up's Largest Photo Mosaic, which will be using 200,000 photos to create history.

The mosaic will be unveiled nationwide on Jan. 29, 2005, and Close-Up will tell you exactly where your picture is located. All qualified entries received within the promo period will also be automatically entered in the Close-Up Whattamouth raffle draws where you can win great prizes like camera phones and P100,000. The grand prize winner will win P1,000,000.

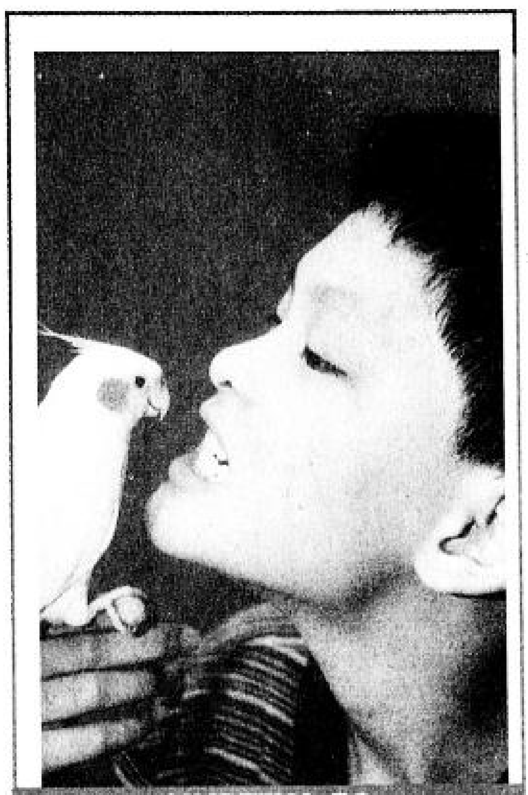
Congratulations, winners!

THEIR loot: Close-Up gift packs, Canon Pixma IP1000 printers and Converse gift certificates worth P2,000

Winners can call 8978808 local 325 starting 3 p.m. every day except Thursday and Sunday to ask how they can claim their prizes. Please look for Joyce.

Grand prize winner

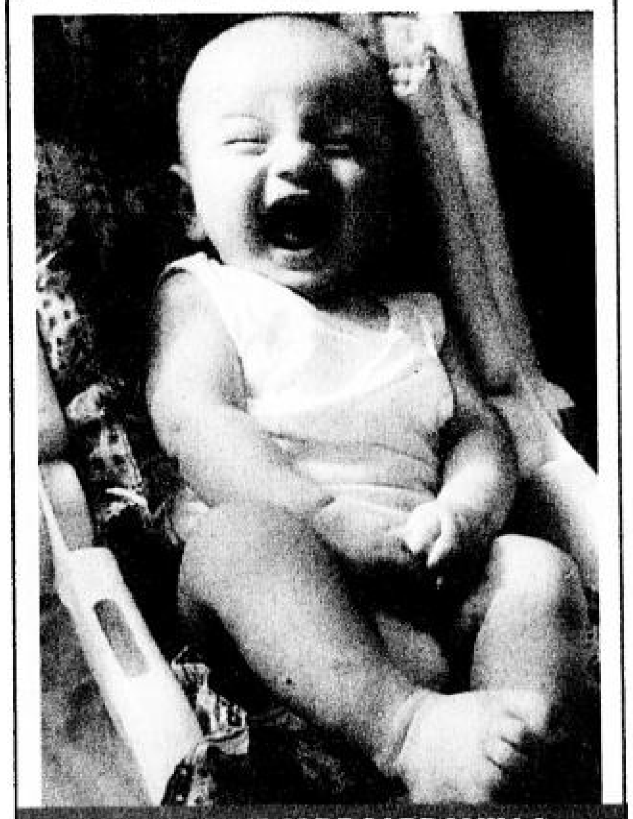
PETER W. ONG OF PASIG CITY
His loot: Close-Up gift pack, Canon Pixma IP1000 printer, Converse gift certificates worth P7,000 and a Canon Powershot A400 digital camera



LILIBETH L. PO OF ILOILO CITY

Other weekly winners

MEDEL SABLAYA OF SAMPALOC, MANILA

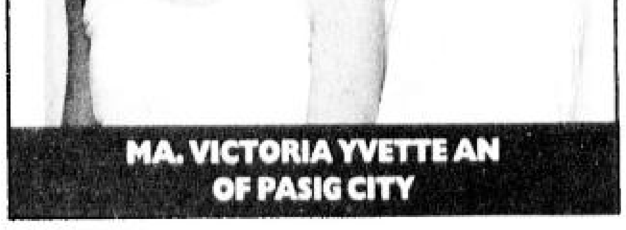


THERESA UBALDE CARBONILLA OF NOVALICHES, QC

JAMILLA GOMEZ OF STA. ANA, MANILA

ANTON LIM OF ZAMBOANGA CITY

MA. SAMANTHA J. GOLEZ OF BACOLOD CITY



MA. VICTORIA YVETTE AN OF PASIG CITY

ASHAMED OF YOUR DARK UNDER-ARMS?
[illegible]
CALL ME NOW! JULIA
T (02) 3744201
T (02) 4118319
TO ORDER BY MAIL TEXT TO:
09177907525
[illegible] VETERANS VILL. PROJ. 7 Q.C.

Are you always left wishing behind?
Boost Your Self-confidence!
with BUTTOCKS AUGMENTATION W/ HYDROGEL
A MODERN-DAY ENHANCEMENT... FOR THOSE IRRESISTIBLE CURVES!
OTHER SERVICES:
- Breast Augmentation
- Liposuction
- Nose Lift
- Eyebag Removal
- Double Eyelid
- Scar Revision
- Botox Injection
- Warts Removal
- Peeling & Body Bleaching
- Varicose Vein
- Facial Treatment
- Dermabrasion

FRANCINE PRIETO
MOVIE ACTRESS
Enhance
COSMETIC SURGERY & SKIN CARE CENTER
TRUST ONLY THE EXPERT CARE BY A QUALIFIED COSMETIC SURGEON
THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA ANNEX BUILDING BASEMENT LEVEL TEL. NO.: 920-9205
MAIN OFFICE: DAVID SURGI-CENTER #32 Times St. cor. West 4, Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Phils.
Tel. No.: 371-8189 • 411-0870 • 431-9342

Perfect your Passion.
Become a chef.
Start your career.

The Fundamentals of Professional Cooking

Transform yourself into an expert in the kitchen and equip yourself with management essentials. Discover the culinary techniques of Asia, America and Europe in just 4-weeks. Available in weekday and weekend schedules.

Weekday schedules : Jan. 18 - Feb. 11, Feb. 8 - Mar. 4, and May 3 - 27, 2005
Weekend schedule : Feb. 12 - Apr. 3, 2005

The Fundamentals of Professional Baking & Pastry

Create delicious breads and wonderful desserts from the different regions of the world. Also, learn the principles of bakeshop management

Weekday schedules : Feb. 8 - Mar. 4, and May 3 - 27, 2005
Weekend schedule : Feb. 12 - Apr. 3, 2005

The Fundamentals of Professional Asian Cuisine

Learn the unique cooking techniques of Asia and familiarize yourself with her exotic ingredients. Also, learn kitchen management essentials to further professionalize your practice.

Weekday schedules : Feb. 15 - Mar. 11, and May 3 - 27, 2005

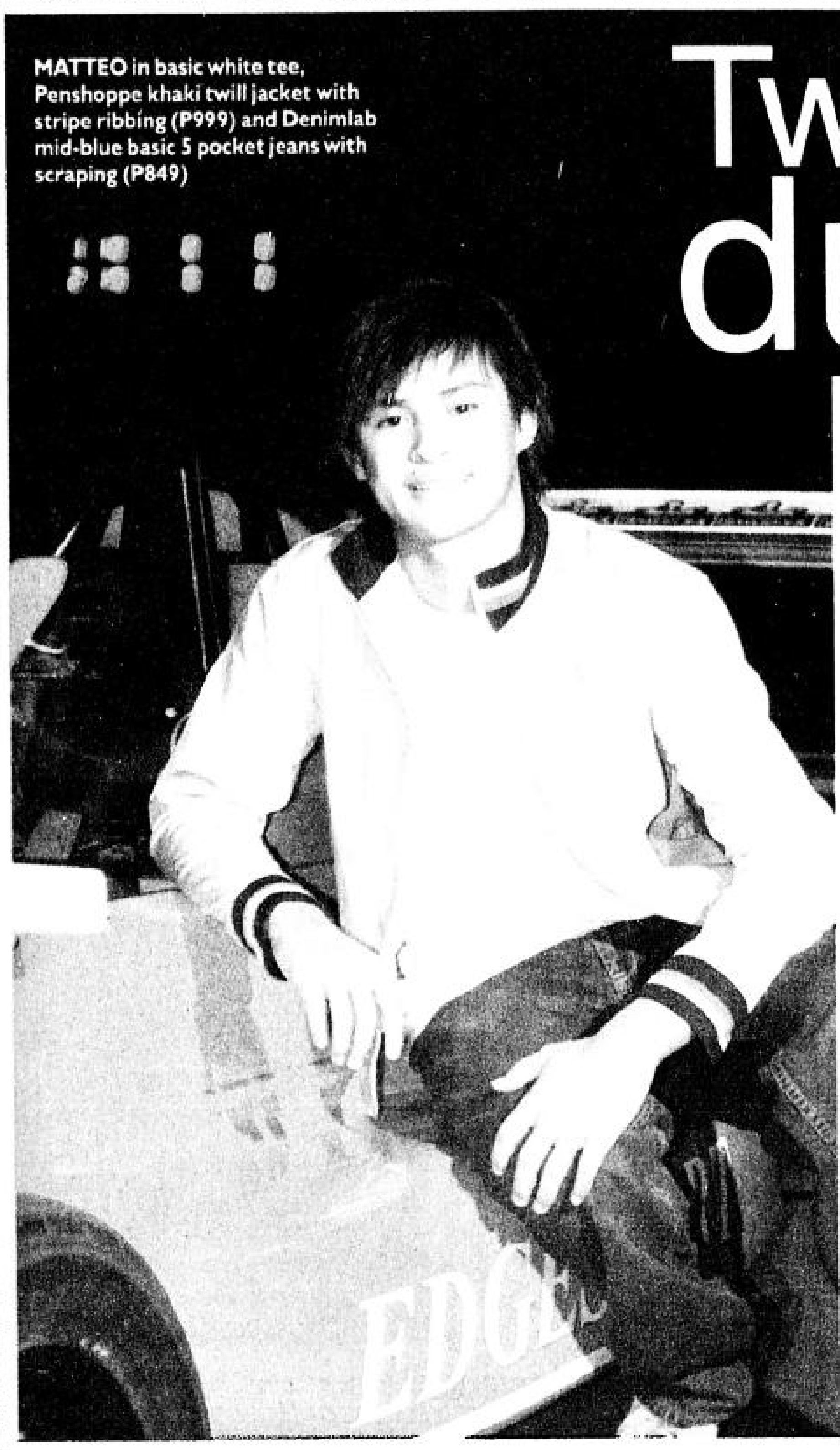
The Professional Culinary Arts Program

This 15-month diploma program is designed to make future chefs from anyone. Learn the international culinary arts and enjoy our 10 to 1 student to teacher ratio, our impeccable kitchen facilities and experience the most hands-on culinary training in the country.

Starting dates for the year 2005: June 21 and September 20.

A.I.C.A.
The Academy for International Culinary Arts
Suite 207 Skyway Twin Towers, Capt. Henry P. Javier Street,
Barangay Oranbo, Pasig City
Call us at 672-2119 • 672-2271
www.aicachef.com

Two cool dudes


MATTEO in basic white tee, Penshoppe khaki twill jacket with stripe ribbing (P999) and Denimlab mid-blue basic 5 pocket jeans with scraping (P849)

AT 15 YEARS old, Matteo Guidicelli has already been called the "Philippine Karting Prince" by local racing aficionados.

This 5'8" Filipino-Italian racer has already notched quite a few championships, including 1st place finishes at the ICA Shell Open and JICA Asian Zone series.

On his free time, the 2004 Philippine Karter of the Year frequents Speed Zone at Fort Bonifacio where, as he explains, one can just go karting for fun without getting flustered by the technicalities of actual competition.

On other days, he likes to catch up on some light reading. He also enjoys soccer, horseback riding, and golf.

Nineteen-year-old Redmond Christopher Fernandez Domingo, more popularly known as Cogie, is the multi-talented actor behind such movies as "Deathrow" and "Cool Dudes," and is currently starring in GMA 7's weekly youth show, "Joy Ride."

For Cogie, down time means distancing himself from the time-consuming demands of show business, and dabbling in more laidback activities like surfing the Internet checking his Friendster account.

He also enjoys casual phone conversations with friends, and on weekends, he likes to round up his *barkada* and head to Greenbelt to catch the latest comedy and action flicks.

DENIMLAB polo tee (P429) and Denimlab mid-blue basic 5 pocket jeans with scraping (P849)

COGIE in green ringer tee (P369), stone twill pants (P749), Matteo in katsa ringer tee (P369) and Denimlab mid-blue basic 5-pocket jeans with scraping (P849)

COGIE in Penshoppe katsa tracker jacket (P799) and orange ringer tee (P399) and Denimlab mid-blue basic 5 pocket jeans with scraping (P849)

RED long-sleeved shirt (P469) and Denimlab mid-blue basic 5-pocket jeans (P749)

From bytes to bites

He turned his back on computers and began bringing palate pleasers to Pinoy food courts

By Pam Pastor

RICHARD V. Sanz abandoned his career in IT to take the plunge into the food business. Now our palates are thanking him for the bold move.

In just a short time, The Tea Square, with branches in Greenbelt 3, Glorietta and Alabang Town Center, already has a strong following, with people constantly queuing up for its specialty iced teas and stuffed breadsticks.

It isn't Richard's first business venture (he's been active in RTW and has participated in bazaars in the past) but it is his first attempt at conquering the food and beverage industry. This new idea stemmed from good memories of his childhood.

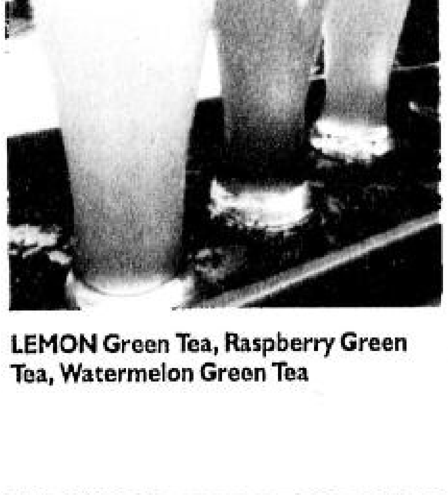
"When we were growing up, my mom used to make really good iced tea. I just thought of it and realized that it's an untapped market. I wanted to serve freshly brewed gourmet iced tea with flavors," says the ECE graduate from the De La Salle University.

He finalized his concept in February of last year and by March had opened his first kiosk at the Alabang Town Center. Two other branches followed soon in Greenbelt and Glorietta 4.

Things have moved fast for Richard. His menu has become especially popular with cinema fans, thanks to his movie snack packages.

His specialty iced teas (customers have a choice between green and black tea, although Richard recommends green tea for its health benefits), which are brewed from imported tea leaves and blended with sweetener and fruit juices, come in eight delightful flavors—Lemon Citrus, Wild Raspberry, Watermelon Delight, Soothing Peach, Hawaiian Coconut, Exotic Kiwi, Ripe Mango and Banana Cooler.

BREADSTICKS with Beef Kebab, Garlic and Cheese, Chicken Taco, Pepperoni Pizza, Bacon Cheeseburger and Mushroom Chicken Pesto fillings


LEMON Green Tea, Raspberry Green Tea, Watermelon Green Tea

Watermelon Delight is fresh. It bursts with the real taste of fruit without being too sweet. Hawaiian Coconut is a real experience—it will create images of swaying coconut trees and beach parties in your head.

Great discovery

The Tea Square's Breadbites are also a great discovery. These eight-inch-long breadsticks are stuffed with a variety of cheese-based fillings—Mushroom Chicken Pesto, Pepperoni Pizza, Bacon Cheeseburger, Beef Kebab, Garlic and Cheese, Chicken Taco and Chicken A La King. We got the chance to try them all.

Mushroom Chicken Pesto is savory without being overpowering. Pepperoni Pizza tastes like real pizza. Bacon Cheeseburger, which is Richard's favorite, is a must for burger lovers. We loved Beef Kebab (the spices used made it taste authentic, like real kebab), Garlic and Cheese (the flavorful melted cheese will make cheese addicts swoon) and Chicken Taco (it's guaranteed to satisfy your taco craving).

THE TEA SQUARE's Alabang Town Center branch

You can order Breadbites per piece or bring home a bag of ten for P160 (you can bake them in your oven toaster). This year, Richard also plans to launch concentrated bottled iced tea for people to use in their own kitchens.

The Tea Square's Greenbelt branch also serves pasta. Here's a tip: Order Breadbites and dip them in the pasta sauce of your choice.

With these palate pleasers and affordable prices (stuffed breadsticks are P20 each and iced teas are sold for an average of P45 each), it's no wonder The Tea Square is already a hit.

Richard still has a lot of plans for his business. "We are constantly adding new flavors and menu items," he says.

He will introduce Tea Blended Shakes soon, with a variety of fruit and cream-based flavors including Oatmeal & Honey, Mangoes & Cream, Strawberry Banana, Oreo and Mint in Dark Chocolate.

This year, Richard intends to launch five more branches—two of which will be in Market! Market and Megamall. He will also open his doors to franchising opportunities.

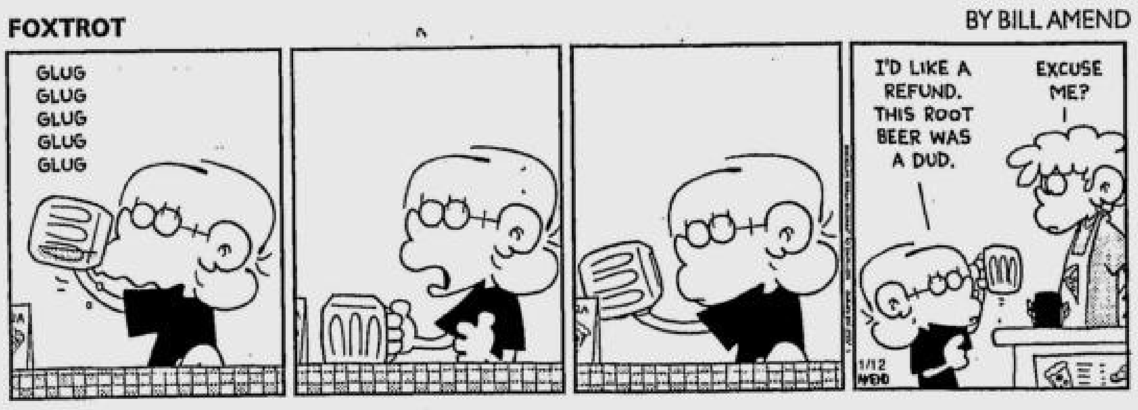
One thing's for sure, The Tea Square will give us more good things to look forward to.

Visit The Tea Square at Greenbelt 3, Food Choices in Glorietta 4 and Alabang Town Center. For franchise inquiries, call 09209230098.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

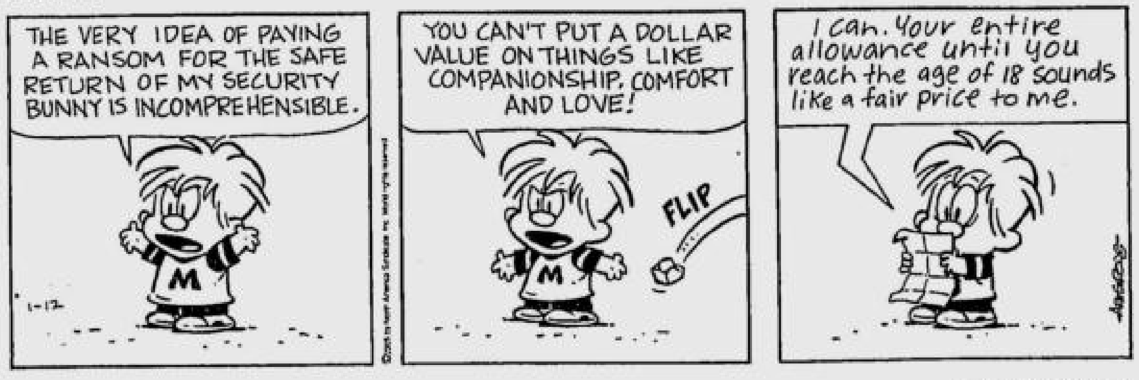
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG
I'D LIKE A REFUND. THIS ROOT BEER WAS A DUD.
EXCUSE ME?
1/12 AMEND

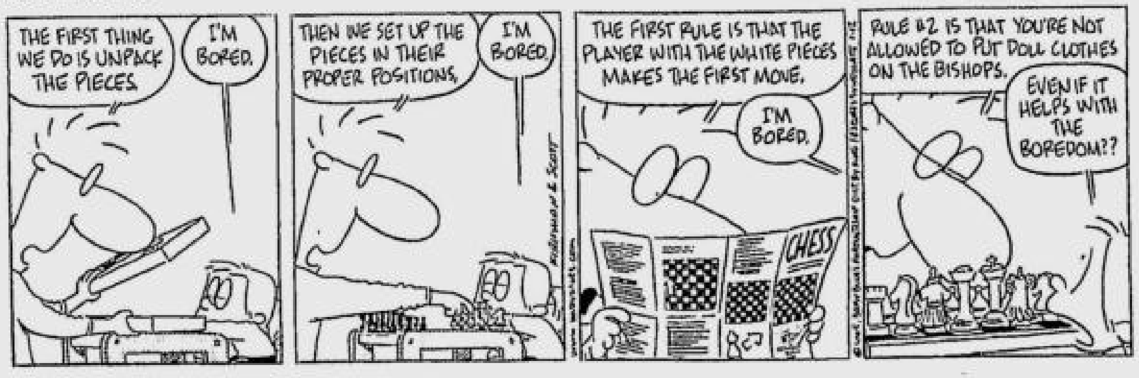
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THE VERY IDEA OF PAYING A RANSOM FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF MY SECURITY BUNNY IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.
1-12
YOU CAN'T PUT A DOLLAR VALUE ON THINGS LIKE COMPANIONSHIP, COMFORT AND LOVE!
FLIP
I can. Your entire allowance until you reach the age of 18 sounds like a fair price to me.

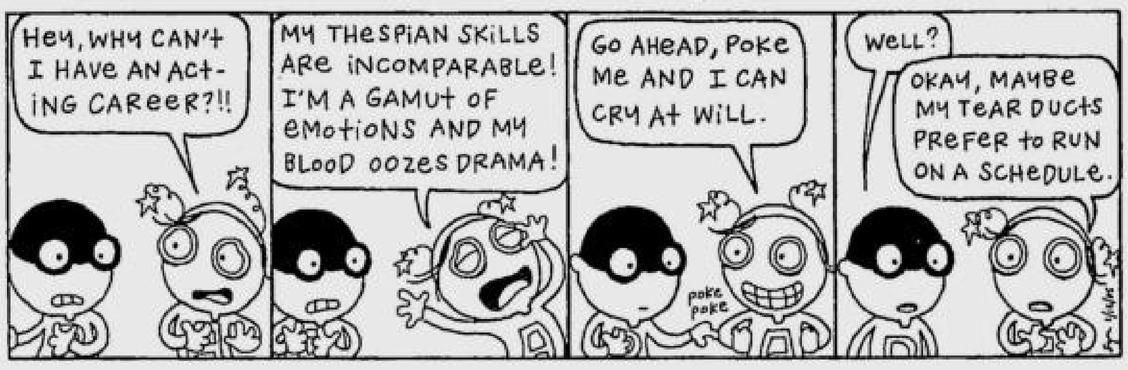
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THE FIRST THING WE DO IS UNPACK THE PIECES.
I'M BORED.
THEN WE SET UP THE PIECES IN THEIR PROPER POSITIONS.
I'M BORED.
THE FIRST RULE IS THAT THE PLAYER WITH THE WHITE PIECES MAKES THE FIRST MOVE.
I'M BORED.
CHESS
RULE #2 IS THAT YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO PUT DOLL CLOTHES ON THE BISHOPS.
EVEN IF IT HELPS WITH THE BOREDOM??

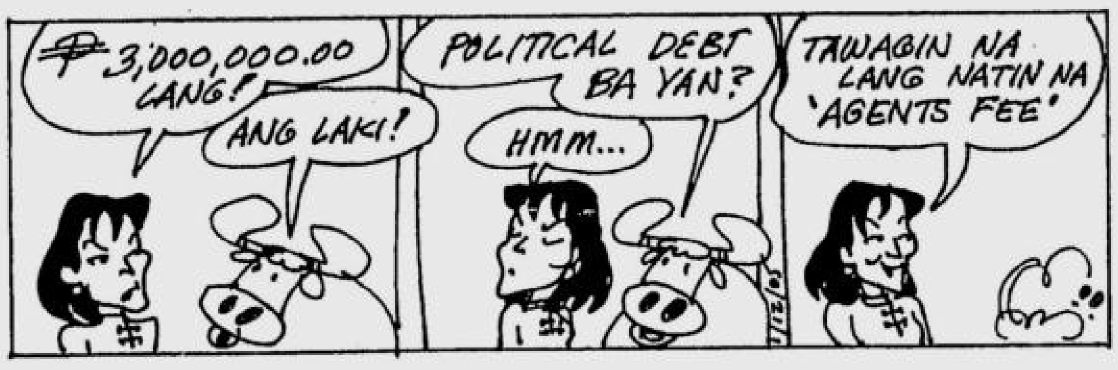
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WHY CAN'T I HAVE AN ACTING CAREER?!!
MY THESPIAN SKILLS ARE INCOMPARABLE! I'M A GAMUT OF EMOTIONS AND MY BLOOD OOZES DRAMA!
Go AHEAD, Poke Me AND I CAN CRY At WiLL.
poke poke
WeLL?
OKAY, MAYBE MY TEAR DUCTS PREFER to RUN ON A SCHEDULE.

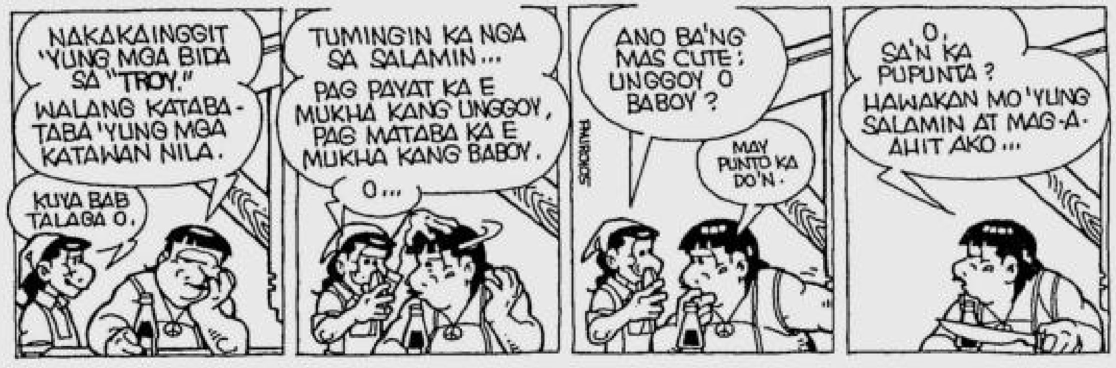
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


₱3,000,000.00 LANG!
ANG LAKI!
POLITICAL DEBT BA YAN?
HMM...
TAWAGIN NA LANG NATIN NA 'AGENTS FEE'
1/12/05

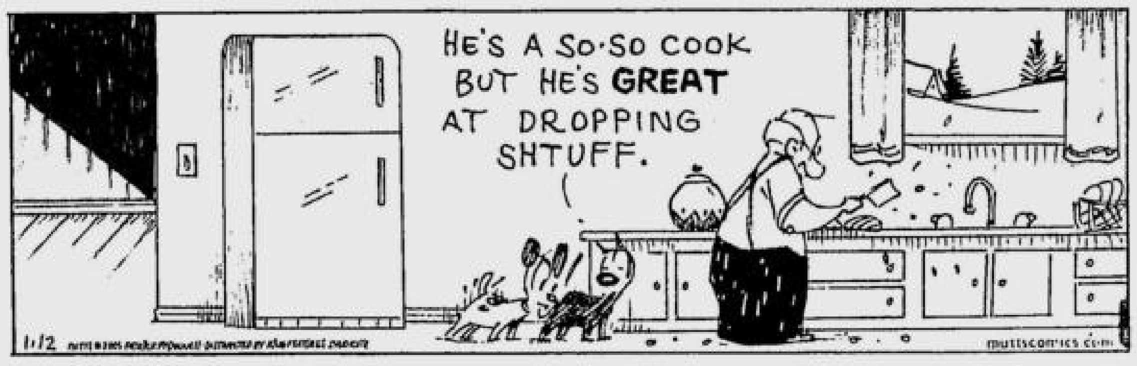
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKAKAINGGIT 'YUNG MGA BIDA SA "TROY." WALANG KATABA-TABA 'YUNG MGA KATAWAN NILA.
KUYA BAB TALAGA O.
TUMINGIN KA NGA SA SALAMIN... PAG PAYAT KA E MUKHA KANG UNGGOY, PAG MATABA KA E MUKHA KANG BABOY.
O...
ANO BA'NG MAS CUTE: UNGGOY O BABOY?
MAY PUNTO KA DO'N.
O, SA'N KA PUPUNTA? HAWAKAN MO 'YUNG SALAMIN AT MAG-A-AHIT AKO...

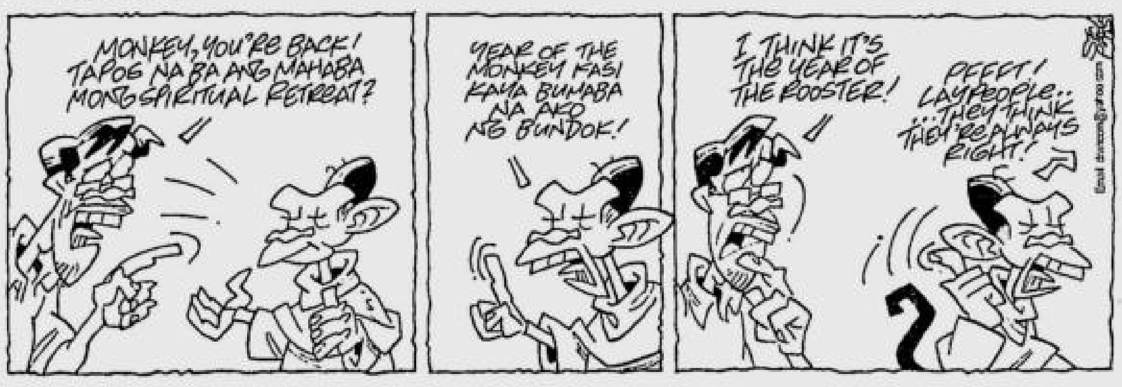
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HE'S A SO·SO COOK BUT HE'S GREAT AT DROPPING SHTUFF.
1-12
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MONKEY, YOU'RE BACK! TAPOS NA BA ANG MAHABA MONG SPIRITUAL RETREAT?
YEAR OF THE MONKEY KASI KAYA BUMABA NA AKO NG BUNDOK!
I THINK IT'S THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER!
PFFFT! LAYPEOPLE... THEY THINK THEY'RE ALWAYS RIGHT!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely committed to what you believe. You have a strong set of personal principles, and you walk your talk. Often your career is totally absorbing. You åre lively, talkative and active. You might have unusual hobbies. The year ahead focuses on partnerships and close friendships.
Birthdate of: Kirstie Alley, actress; Howard Stern, radio personality; Jack London, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): All kinds of wonderful goodies come your way today! Praise, a raise and recognition for your efforts are likely at work. Others will part to let you pass.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Unexpected opportunities to travel or to promote your training and education in some way are likely to come your way today. Stay alert.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Unexpected candor or honesty with others is likely today. You might meet someone new or see an entirely new side of someone you already know.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Gifts and goodies come to you from other sources today. If you're in a partnership, your partner will benefit, thus bringing good fortune to you as well. (Keep your pockets open!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Something very pleasant can happen at work today. Some kind of advantage comes your way, or perhaps a co-worker does a special favor for you. (It's a nice surprise.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a lovely day for romance. New love can begin. Unexpected flirtations will make your heart flutter. It's also a good day for financial speculation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might buy something artistic or unusual and modern for your home today. Perhaps a family member surprises you in some way. Something pleasant and unexpected will take place!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with everyone are pleasant today, but surprising and unusual in some way. Expect to meet new and interesting people. Keep an open mind. (But not so open that everything falls out!)

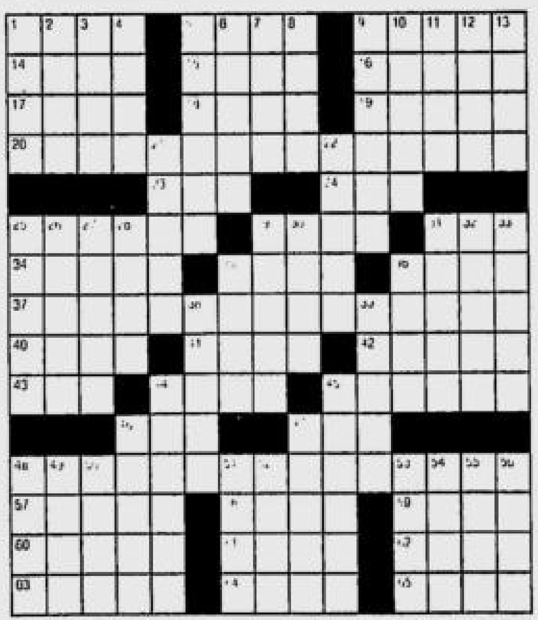
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might not know what to do with your unorthodox moneymaking ideas today. Why not give them a chance? Bounce them off other people to see what they think. Spontaneous purchases are likely today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're full of bright ideas today! In fact, your mind is zipping along in an electric way in different directions all day long. Your daily routine will be interrupted in a pleasant way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Someone who is a bit of a character will come into your life today. Something bizarre will happen. Expect surprises from friends and groups.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Unexpected opportunities to travel or to talk to your boss might fall in your lap today. Something to do with aviation, electricity, science or technology will interrupt your day.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
1/12/05

ACROSS
1 Herring's kin
5 Response times
9 Pungent greens
14 Old cash in Como
15 Actress Falco
16 Drive back
17 Actress Lena
18 Cartoonist Thomas
19 Poplar tree
20 Ballplayer's dating?
23 Olympic runner Sebastian
24 Inc. in the U.K.
25 New York comic George
29 Commiseration
31 Naughty
34 Once more
35 Sample tape
36 Auto racer Luyendyk
37 Lumberjack's dating?
40 __ Stanley Gardner
41 Half a fortnight
42 "The Absinthe Drinker" painter
43 Nordic flyers, in brief
44 Lubricants
45 S.F. gridders
46 Grain beard
47 Pursue persistently
48 Boxer's dating?
57 Napoleon's fate
58 Tiller
59 Skin opening
60 Take in pants
61 Vocalist Fitzgerald
62 Switch position
63 Yorkshire city
64 Panache
65 Small salamander

DOWN
1 Splash liquid
2 George Roy or Graham
3 Opera song
4 Repudiate
5 Ono's husband
6 Traditional saying
7 Pith
8 Clockmaker Thomas
9 Clever
10 Name the same suit
11 Duel tool
12 Exchange for money
13 Winter vehicle
21 Cake topping
22 John the singer
25 Parakeet boxes
26 Greek market
27 Streetcar tracks
28 Betting odds
29 Townshend and Sampras
30 Reassuring phrase
31 Pickling solution
32 Sights setter
33 Obligations
35 Head-to-head contest
36 Ladd or King
38 Yet to be paid
39 Pedro's pal
44 Deed holders
45 "Spirit in the Sky" singer Greenbaum
46 Was sick
47 Actress Reese
48 Repast
49 Shaft in a car
50 Park flyer
51 Fare-__-well
52 Devil's domain
53 Second word of "The Raven"
54 Yup's antonym
55 A Barrymore
56 Mailed

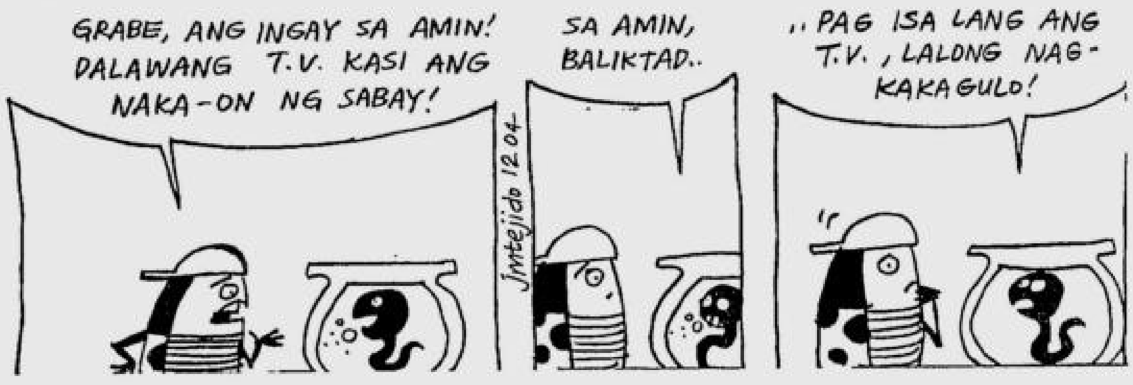
Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	G	M	A	■	O	C	H	E	R	■	J	U	T
E	A	T	I	N	■	P	O	I	S	E	■	E	T	A
F	R	O	N	T	R	U	N	N	E	R	■	T	U	X
■	■	■	C	A	U	S	E	D	■	A	T	A	R	I
P	A	C	E	R	S	■	S	U	S	T	A	I	N	S
E	L	O	■	E	T	O	■	■	H	E	B	R	■	■
A	P	L	U	S	■	D	E	M	I	■	O	P	A	L
C	H	O	P	■	L	O	G	O	N	■	O	L	L	A
H	A	R	T	■	U	R	G	E	■	P	S	A	L	M
■	■	S	A	G	A	■	■	T	W	A	■	N	I	P
W	I	C	K	I	U	P	S	■	O	L	S	E	N	S
A	C	H	E	S	■	E	A	R	L	A	P	■	■	■
T	I	E	■	M	A	R	K	O	F	Z	O	R	R	O
E	L	M	■	O	B	O	E	S	■	Z	O	N	A	L
R	Y	E	■	S	E	N	S	E	■	O	F	A	G	E

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved
1/12/05

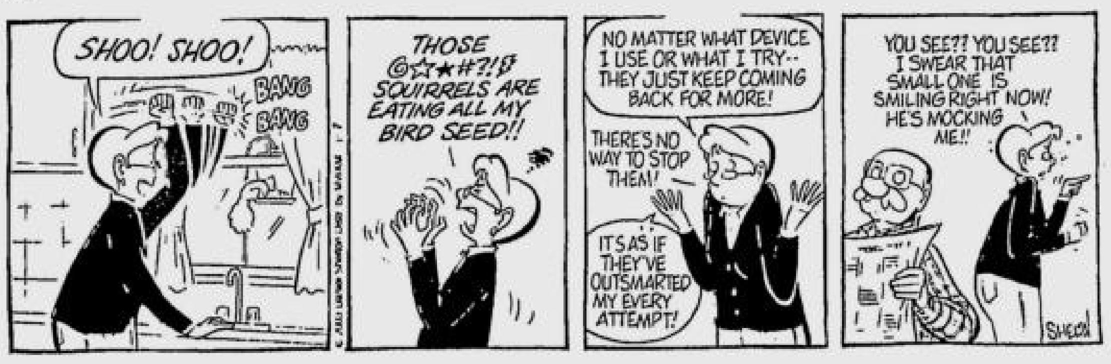
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE, ANG INGAY SA AMIN! DALAWANG T.V. KASI ANG NAKA-ON NG SABAY!
Jmtejido 12.04
SA AMIN, BALIKTAD..
..PAG ISA LANG ANG T.V., LALONG NAGKAKAGULO!

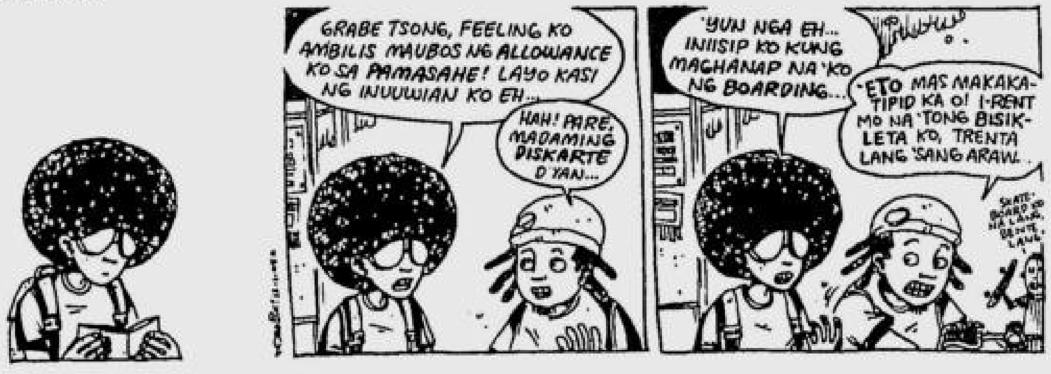
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SHOO! SHOO!
BANG BANG
THOSE @☆★#?!$ SQUIRRELS ARE EATING ALL MY BIRD SEED!!
NO MATTER WHAT DEVICE I USE OR WHAT I TRY-- THEY JUST KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE!
THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THEM!
IT'S AS IF THEY'VE OUTSMARTED MY EVERY ATTEMPT!
YOU SEE?? YOU SEE?? I SWEAR THAT SMALL ONE IS SMILING RIGHT NOW! HE'S MOCKING ME!!
SHELTON

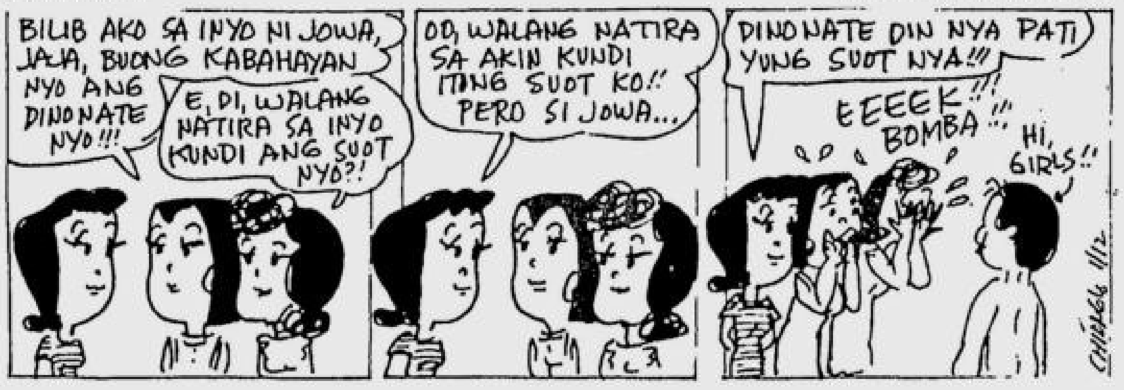
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE TSONG, FEELING KO AMBILIS MAUBOS NG ALLOWANCE KO SA PAMASAHE! LAYO KASI NG INUUWIAN KO EH...
HAH! PARE, MADAMING DISKARTE D'YAN...
'YUN NGA EH... INIISIP KO KUNG MAGHANAP NA 'KO NG BOARDING...
'ETO MAS MAKAKATIPID KA O! I-RENT MO NA 'TONG BISIKLETA KO. TRENTA LANG 'SANG ARAW.

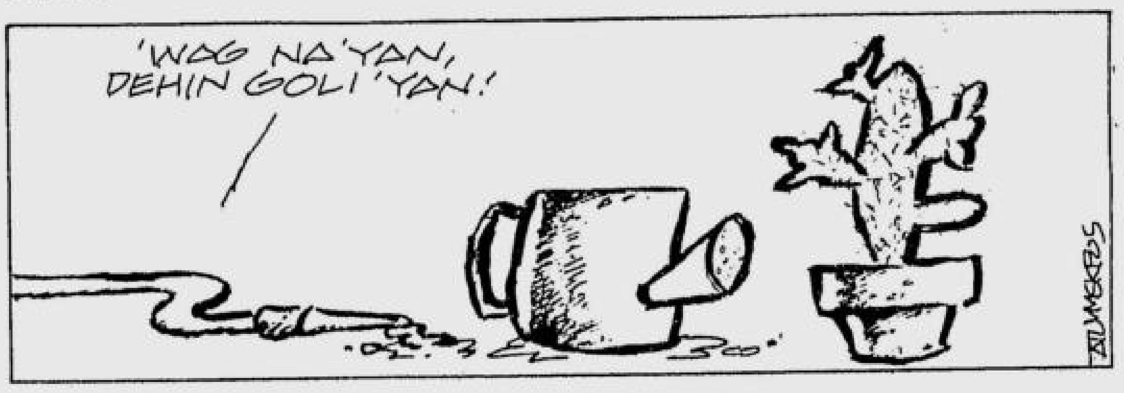
LOVEKNOTS

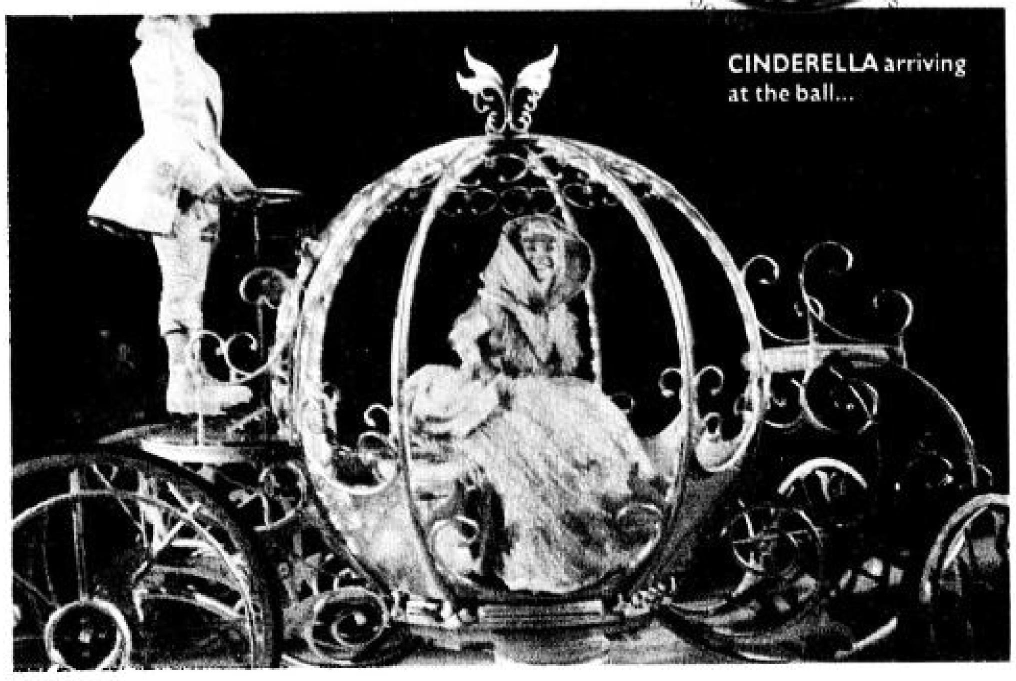
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BILIB AKO SA INYO NI JOWA, JAJA, BUONG KABAHAYAN NYO ANG DINONATE NYO!!!
E, DI, WALANG NATIRA SA INYO KUNDI ANG SUOT NYO?!
OO, WALANG NATIRA SA AKIN KUNDI ITONG SUOT KO!! PERO SI JOWA...
DINONATE DIN NYA PATI YUNG SUOT NYA!!!
EEEEK!!! BOMBA!!!
HI, GIRLS!!
CHIONGLO 1/12

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG NA 'YAN, DEHIN GOLI 'YAN!


CINDERELLA arriving at the ball...

...AND dancing with the prince

The Disney princess diaries

Watching Disney's ice extravaganza with its bevy of winsome princesses made me a child again

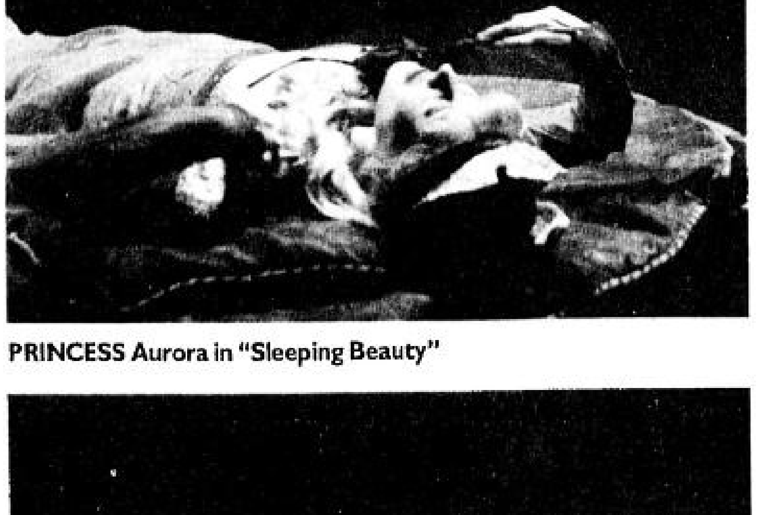
SNOW WHITE'S wicked stepmother

SNOW White

ARIEL in "The Little Mermaid"

MULAN

THE BEAST and Belle in "Beauty and the Beast"


PRINCESS Aurora in "Sleeping Beauty"

THE SEVEN dwarfs

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! correspondent
Photos by Marc de Vera

DISNEY was my babysitter. As children, my sisters and I would spend hours watching movies, playing with dolls, listening to music, and reading books under the safe guidance of Walt Disney and his lovable crew of talking animals and supposedly inanimate objects.

At the age of 3, I learned how to operate the Betamax (that was a long, long time ago) in order to play "Robin Hood" four times a day everyday for months. I never got tired of watching Robin Hood and Little John outsmart Prince John and his slithering servant, Sir Hiss—that is, until I discovered the Disney princesses.

The Disney princesses—Snow White, Aurora, Cinderella, Ariel, Belle, Jasmine and Mulan—captured me in a way no other characters could.

Although Robin Hood and Little John were hilarious, they just didn't have the dreamy quality the princesses had. They were beautiful, had great singing voices, and had tragic stories that were easily solved with quick thinking, a fighting spirit, and okay, the fairy godmother and the handsome prince. Up until the '80s, woman empowerment wasn't really a major theme in Disney movies.

Despite that, practically all the girls I knew gobbled up everything related to them. We watched their films, sang their songs, played with their dolls.

Given our near-obsession with the characters, you can just imagine the chaos that reigned in our house when we found out that the theme for 2004's "Disney on Ice" was the Disney Princesses.

Joanne (my 21-year-old *ate*) got a glazed look on her face and began cutting out newspaper clippings and ads of the show. Sixteen-year-old Nikka, usually the queen of nonchalance, began babbling about the possibility of having a princess-inspired gown made for her prom.

It was decided: rain or shine, we were going to watch the show.

So several weeks ago, we went to the Araneta Coliseum for the dress rehearsals. But for her own reasons, a certain Aina Lluz didn't let my sisters in, despite prior permission—she made them stay outside in the corridor, while the photographer and I were ushered into the empty stadium to watch the show.

Amazing stunts

Inside, Aladdin and Jasmine (who is a Filipino skater, by the way) were skating and acting their hearts out to the familiar tunes of the movie; the set was complete with a life-size replica of Abu as an elephant, a huge magic lamp with Genie inside it, and of course, the magic carpet.

Get this: Aladdin and Jasmine wear seatbelts on the carpet.

As the Arabian pair flew away, Princess Aurora came in with Prince Philip and danced as if they had met "once upon a dream." But in the middle of their performance, I couldn't help but notice that the guy who played Prince Philip looked like Carson from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

After that, the lights grew dim, and a very pretty Ariel sailed out, singing about the human world and bargaining her voice for a pair of legs. The highlight of that part, however, was when Eric and a barefooted Ariel skated "Part of Your World" together. Yes, barefooted—Eric carried Ariel as she twisted and turned around his body during that entire song.

The dancers' amazing agility were even more evident in "Mulan," the story of the girl who saved China. Although the storytelling in this very short segment was sacrificed for a solo of "Reflection," (you won't understand the story if you didn't watch the movie), it was a breathtaking solo, nonetheless.

Next on the lineup was Snow White, complete with the seven dwarves. This segment told almost the entire story and included quite a lot of props, including the magic mirror, glass coffin, and of course, the red apple that did the princess in.

AMAZING acrobatics

A rose from Snow White's funeral paved the way for Beauty and the Beast. Sadly, there wasn't any Lumiere, Cogsworth, or Mrs. Potts to liven up this part of the show, just Belle, Gaston, and the Beast (who transformed into the handsome prince at the end.)

The entire second half of "Disney on Ice" was reserved for Cinderella, which is probably the ultimate princess story.

Song and dance

Seven stories fit into two hours of song and dance; surely, storylines will suffer, but that isn't the point. "Disney on Ice" does not exist to stimulate the brain, but the senses. The songs, costumes, choreography—they're all designed to make you a child again.

Every second of the show is meant to entertain the audience, and it does exactly that, but with a catch: you have to watch it with someone who enjoys the pleasures of childhood just as much as you do. Otherwise, the candy-coated production will seem empty rather than fun.

The production team didn't use the original soundtracks for the show. Maybe the pop versions were easier to skate to? It's a shame, though; the charming, familiar tunes of the classic cartoons were replaced with faster beats and a lot of belting that wasn't so easy on the ears ("So this iiiiiiiiissss loooooovvveeee...").

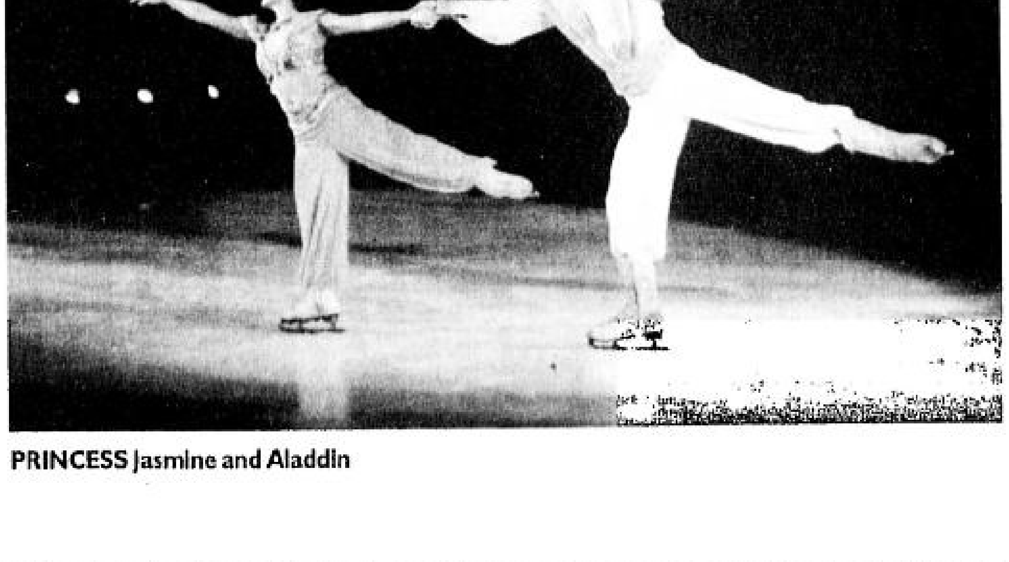
Lea Salonga's version of "Reflection," for example, would have made the overall effect of the solo more pleasant, but a less experienced singer sang it instead.

Despite the grating pop versions, "Disney on Ice" was an enjoyable experience, especially when I watched it the second time around with my siblings. We ate snow cones, gasped in awe at the stunts, ogled the fabulous costumes and giggled about "Prince Carson."

While I had the front-and-center seat during the dress rehearsals, I had a lot more fun sitting ten rows away from the rink the second time around, because I had someone to enjoy it with. The stadium was packed; there were toddlers, teenagers, parents, and even nuns, all ready to enjoy their holiday on ice with the Disney princesses. It was noisy, the place smelled of popcorn, and little girls wore shirts with their favorite princess on it.

For two giddy hours, I was a child again.

E-mail biancaconsunji@yahoo.com.


PRINCESS Jasmine and Aladdin

Mitch and her big mouth

The artist formerly known as Maya Valdes still soars and roars, but says her humor is kinder now, much more mellow

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

CHATTY. In a swanky coffee shop in Greenhills, Mitch Valdes has yet to have her first cup, but already she is beaming, buzzing, fussing, and fretting all at once.

Can't blame her if she's all fired up. The café conversation is sandwiched between meetings and rehearsals for her comeback concerts at the Tavern on the Square (Mitch Valdes the Musical) this month.

From the coffee shop, she will dash to a nearby deli (to do some last-minute shopping for a high-school reunion dinner) and then to Fitness First for her regular workout.

Whew.

"Since I'm menopausal, I should no longer be multitasking," she cracks. Then again, she has always been a live wire, onstage and off.

"I do boxing now," she reports. "That's my secret—the reason that, at this age, I can still perform for three hours straight. It's all for stamina really. I also do cosmic cycling and weight-lifting."

And does she follow any special diet? Atkins? Tali ... er, South Beach?

She is adamant: "No. I do all of the above so I don't have to go on a special diet and not have cholesterol and sugar problems."

Retarded?

The woman has clearly, willfully, chosen to remain forever young and living it up.

After over three decades in the business of show, she says, "My mind stopped at 16. I'm retarded. I am only reminded of my age when my friends bring along their kids. I get shocked. Huh? I still think we're in high school. My *colegiala* friends (from St. Scholastica's) keep me grounded. When they share real-life stories, they make me realize that my show biz problems are nothing."

On the bright side, she has noticed positive changes in her personality because of—more likely in spite of—show biz.

She confesses: "I used to have very bad stage fright. Very horrible. Debilitating. I used to have mini-nervous breakdowns in the dressing room. Really neurotic. Right before a show. But I've learned to control it. Now, the minute I'm on, I'm fine."

Now a more confident performer, she knows what she wants to do out there each time, and how to achieve it.

"In short, I can perform without throwing up first," she says. "I've also realized that people respond to quality, sincerity, and honesty. Look at Susan Roces [in that celebrated ABS-CBN interview]. The masses responded to her. People should just stop making *ek-ek*. Just say what you want to say."

"I'M MENOPAUSING... I shouldn't be multitasking."

For that exact same reason, she adores Bad Boy rapper Eminem., "He says everything that people, out of political correctness, are afraid to say. I don't understand why people are scared to call a spade a spade."

Trouble magnet

Mitch has always been vocal on nearly everything, myriad issues, whether political or musical. She guffaws: "My big mouth always gets me in trouble."

She recalls her first major concert, "Mitch Valdes With an S," at the old Rizal Theater, in which she spoofed La Imeldific: "The theater was surrounded with Metrocom cars—complete with *wang-wangs* (sirens)!"

The good news was, that didn't stop the audience. "They flocked to the theater all the more. You know *naman* the Pinoys . . ."

As for her humor, Mitch believes it has matured—"ripened"—with the passing of time, through Edsa 1, 2, and 3.

She explains: "It's kinder now. It used to be very acerbic, but only because—there was a war to be fought against . . . everything! There was sexism, the martial-law dictatorship. So I was very militant then. Now, the battle of the Filipino is within himself. He has to undergo a radical paradigm shift. Only God knows how! I'm so tired of the issues—the same old issues. Now, I'd rather just sing. I deserve my mellowness, my mellow touch. I've earned it!"

Still, she remains as frank and opinionated as ever. "Most of the people who come to my shows know that there will always be an underlying message. I make them laugh for a while, then I dish out my personal comments [on issues]. That's why I love performing onstage; I can say anything!"

Freedom freak

The fulfillment is intoxicating, she says. "I am such a freedom freak. Then again, I've learned that with freedom comes great responsibility, because you are also free to destroy yourself I used to equate freedom with being licentious."

Not anymore. Meet Mellow Mitch, who is also the "multi-talented and multi-tasking" president of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM). Think of her as a musical Norma Rae or a singing Sister Stella L.

"That's the side of me I rarely show in public," she says. "The one who works a little."

The one who champions artists' rights is more like it; the one who tirelessly labors to professionalize the industry.

In fact, OPM, through a grant from President Macapagal-Arroyo and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), recently put up a database online (www.opm.registry.com).

"It's a registry of all possible original Filipino works," she points out. "It's a directory not only of singers, but also of composers and compositions, to help international and local institutions and organizations that are doing research work."

Advocacy

Mitch, the seriously committed artist.

In the same vein, she hopes that theater and musical performances will soon become less Manila-centric and more accessible to students in the different regions.

"The youth should be exposed to diverse forms of entertainment," she says. "So that they wouldn't be limited to the menu they're fed on TV every day. The Pinoy's capacity for art appreciation is great, boundless. Who would've thought they would go crazy over Lisa Macuja dancing the ballet in a basketball court in the province?"

Indeed, her mentors (like Bibot Amador of Repertory Philippines and Lino Brocka of Peta) would surely be proud of Mitch's advocacy.

"It was a really terrible last quarter [of 2004]," she sighs. "I lost an idol [Bibot] and an icon [Katy de la Cruz whom she portrayed in 'Katy the Musical' in 1989]. I was really saddened by Katy's passing."

In loving tribute to such a national treasure, Mitch and cohort Celeste Legaspi are planning "to revive, remix, and re-release the musical's soundtrack."

"She's the Grande Dame," she says of Dela Cruz. "She's part of history. She introduced jazz to the Philippines."

Autobiography

Speaking of posterity, she is mulling her own autobiography. "I've commissioned [her friend, INQUIRER Entertainment columnist] Nestor Torre," she hollers. "When it's safe, I'll dictate my memoirs to him."

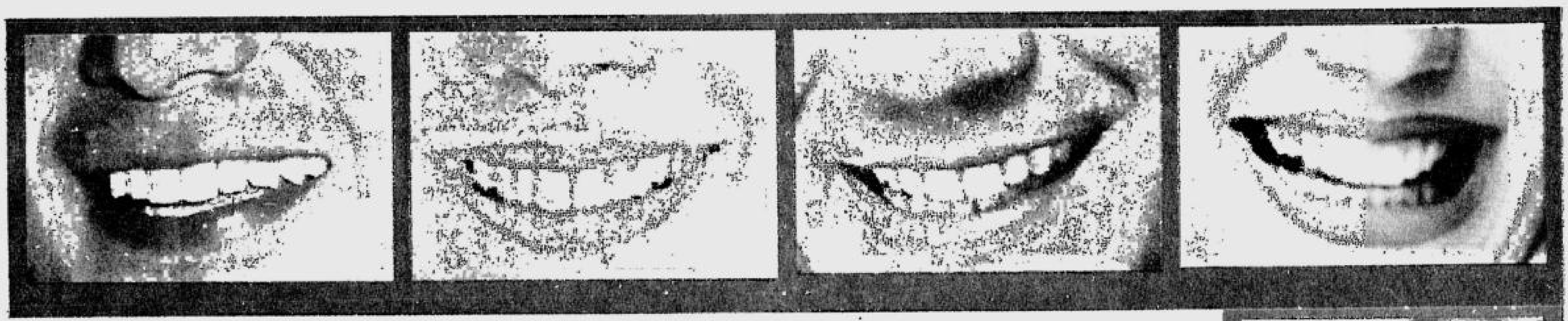
And that would help/inspire people?

"That would reveal a lot of things," she chortles. "My friends always tell me: Why does everything happen to you? It's as if every day is so eventful."

Living in Manila has always been a mega event for Mitch.

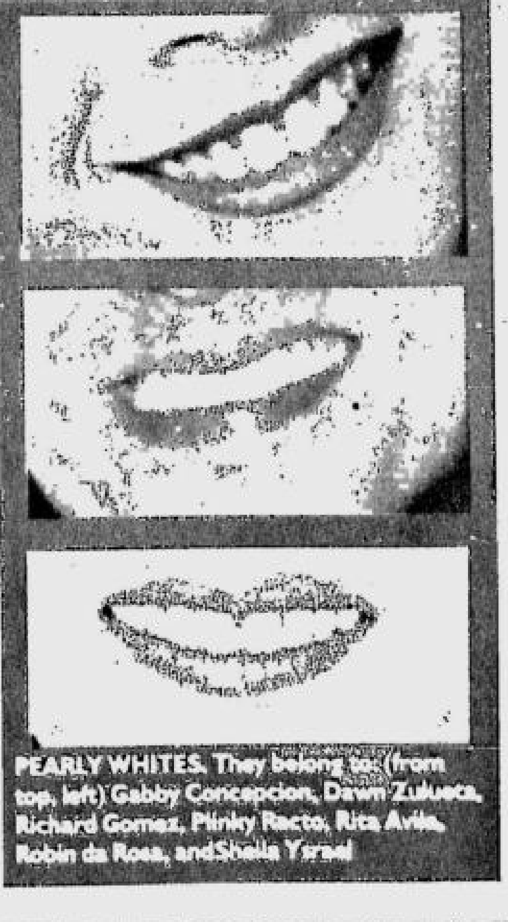
"I'm really a city girl," she concludes. "I can only take a maximum four days of Nature. And then I get itchy and antsy. I start looking for buildings. Isn't there a Starbucks on this beach?"

That is to say, life's not a beach, if you ask Mitch.



Dawn, Richard, Plinky and Gabby . . .

Smile, you're a star



PEARLY WHITES. They belong to: (from top, left) Gabby Concepcion, Dawn Zulueta, Richard Gomez, Plinky Recto, Rita Avila, Robin da Rosa, andSheila Ysrael

WHAT DO Dawn Zulueta, Gabby Concepcion, and Richard Gomez have in common?

They got their big breaks as stars after being cast in a toothpaste ad.

Close-Up commercials, it turns out, has launched more cinematic careers than all other toothpaste ads combined.

In its virtual gallery has been caught the sparkling smiles of Sen. Loren Legarda and Rep. Miguel Zubiri. Among the actors, Gabby Concepcion made the most versions.

The rest of the gang includes: Richard Gomez, Tonton Gutierrez, Dawn Zulueta, William Martinez, Mark Gil, Plinky Recto, Lloyed Samartino, Tina Revilla, Jim Paredes, Cheska Diaz, Patrick dela Rosa, Robin da Roza, Matt Mendoza, Alain Sia, Belinda Panelo, Mia Prats, Jobelle Salvador, Joed Serrano, Rita Avila, Jayvee Gayoso, Rudolph Yaptinchay, Mandy Ochoa, Sheila Ysrael, and Leo Rabago.

Beauty queens? There's Dindi Gallardo, and Aileen Damiles.

Society figures? Vicky Morales, Bea Zubiri, Carmen Delgado, Bea and Pilar Valdez, Raya Roa, Raffy Ladao, Cai Rodriguez, Mike Vaca, and many others.

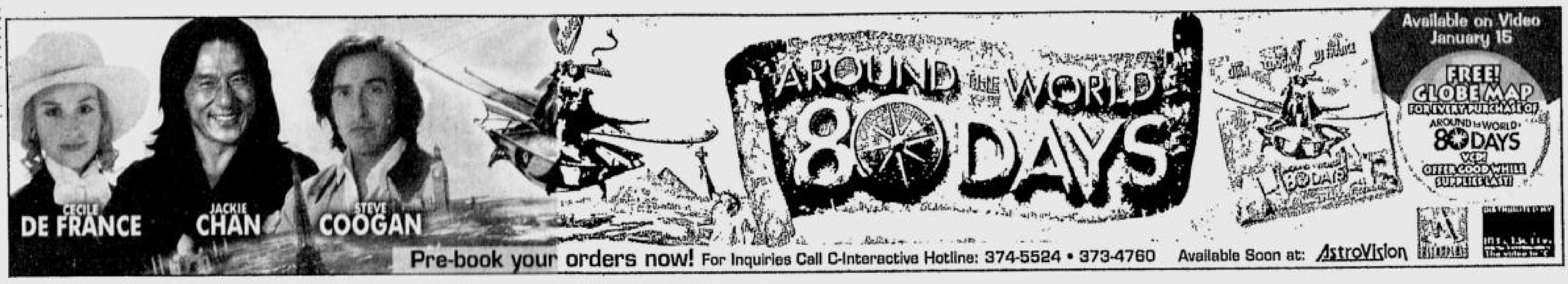
Kissing party

Close-Up's more recent endorses are Heart Evangelista, John Prats, Luis Manzano, Onemig Bondoc, Rafael Rosel, Maike Evers, Brad Turvey, Stephanie Kienle, Alexis Alunan, Stephanie Zubiri, Karel Marquez, JC Gonzales, Paolo Trillo, Leandro Muñoz, Joanna Dizon, Paolo Abrera, Derek Ramsey, Chris Feist, BJ Palanca, TJ Trinidad, Kelly Misa, and the newest member of the "family," Jimmy "the mouth" Garcia.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, all these personalities are expected to gather at The Conservatory of The Peninsula Manila to be advocates of romance in an event meant to usher in the Valentine season with ... the Close-Up Kiss.

Luke Mijares, Kyla, Paolo Santos, Christian Bautista, and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra will provide the music.

Last year, the Philippines made it to the Guinness Book of Records with 5,327 couples kissing simultaneously, breaking Chile's record of 4,445 pairs. This year, Close-Up will hold the smooching sessions in Manila, Davao, Cebu, and Angeles.


CECILE DE FRANCE
JACKIE CHAN
STEVE COOGAN
AROUND THE WORLD 80 DAYS
Available on Video January 15
FREE! GLOBE MAP FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF AROUND THE WORLD 80 DAYS VCD
OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
Pre-book your orders now! For Inquiries Call C-Interactive Hotline: 374-5524 • 373-4760 Available Soon at: AstroVision

ENTERTAINMENT Metro
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Mitch and her big mouth

The artist formerly known as Maya Valdes still soars and roars, but says her humor is kinder now, much more mellow

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

"I'M MENOPAUSING... I shouldn't be multitasking."

CHATTY. In a swanky coffee shop in Greenhills, Mitch Valdes has yet to have her first cup, but already she is beaming, buzzing, fussing, and fretting all at once.

Can't blame her if she's all fired up. The café conversation is sandwiched between meetings and rehearsals for her comeback concerts at the Tavern on the Square (Mitch Valdes the Musical) this month.

From the coffee shop, she will dash to a nearby deli (to do some last-minute shopping for a high-school reunion dinner) and then to Fitness First for her regular workout.

Whew.

"Since I'm menopausal, I should no longer be multitasking," she cracks. Then again, she has always been a live wire, onstage and off.

"I do boxing now," she reports. "That's my secret—the reason that, at this age, I can still perform for three hours straight. It's all for stamina really. I also do cosmic cycling and weight-lifting."

And does she follow any special diet? Atkins? Tali ... er, South Beach?

She is adamant: "No. I do all of the above so I don't have to go on a special diet and not have cholesterol and sugar problems."

Retarded?

The woman has clearly, willfully, chosen to remain forever young and living it up.

After over three decades in the business of show, she says, "My mind stopped at 16. I'm retarded. I am only reminded of my age when my friends bring along their kids. I get shocked. Huh? I still think we're in high school. My *colegiala* friends (from St. Scholastica's) keep me grounded. When they share real-life stories, they make me realize that my show biz problems are nothing."

On the bright side, she has noticed positive changes in her personality because of—more likely in spite of—show biz.

She confesses: "I used to have very bad stage fright. Very horrible. Debilitating. I used to have mini-nervous breakdowns in the dressing room. Really neurotic. Right before a show. But I've learned to control it. Now, the minute I'm on, I'm fine."

Now a more confident performer, she knows what she wants to do out there each time, and how to achieve it.

"In short, I can perform without throwing up first," she says. "I've also realized that people respond to quality, sincerity, and honesty. Look at Susan Roces [in that celebrated ABS-CBN interview]. The masses responded to her. People should just stop making *ek-ek*. Just say what you want to say."

For that exact same reason, she adores Bad Boy rapper Eminem.. "He says everything that people, out of political correctness, are afraid to say. I don't understand why people are scared to call a spade a spade."

Trouble magnet

Mitch has always been vocal on nearly everything, myriad issues, whether political or musical. She guffaws: "My big mouth always gets me in trouble."

She recalls her first major concert, "Mitch Valdes With an S," at the old Rizal Theater, in which she spoofed La Imeldific: "The theater was surrounded with Metrocom cars—complete with *wang-wangs* (sirens)!"

The good news was, that didn't stop the audience. "They flocked to the theater all the more. You know *naman* the Pinoys . . ."

As for her humor, Mitch believes it has matured—"ripened"—with the passing of time, through Edsa 1, 2, and 3.

She explains: "It's kinder now. It used to be very acerbic, but only because—there was a war to be fought against . . . everything! There was sexism, the martial-law dictatorship. So I was very militant then. Now, the battle of the Filipino is within himself. He has to undergo a radical paradigm shift. Only God knows how! I'm so tired of the issues—the same old issues. Now, I'd rather just sing. I deserve my mellowness, my mellow touch. I've earned it!"

Still, she remains as frank and opinionated as ever. "Most of the people who come to my shows know that there will always be an underlying message. I make them laugh for a while, then I dish out my personal comments [on issues]. That's why I love performing onstage; I can say anything!"

Freedom freak

The fulfillment is intoxicating, she says. "I am such a freedom freak. Then again, I've learned that with freedom comes great responsibility, because you are also free to destroy yourself I used to equate freedom with being licentious."

Not anymore. Meet Mellow Mitch, who is also the "multi-talented and multi-tasking" president of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM). Think of her as a musical Norma Rae or a singing Sister Stella L.

"That's the side of me I rarely show in public," she says. "The one who works a little."

The one who champions artists' rights is more like it; the one who tirelessly labors to professionalize the industry.

In fact, OPM, through a grant from President Macapagal-Arroyo and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), recently put up a database online (www.opm.registry.com).

"It's a registry of all possible original Filipino works," she points out. "It's a directory not only of singers, but also of composers and compositions, to help international and local institutions and organizations that are doing research work."

Advocacy

Mitch, the seriously committed artist.

In the same vein, she hopes that theater and musical performances will soon become less Manila-centric and more accessible to students in the different regions.

"The youth should be exposed to diverse forms of entertainment," she says. "So that they wouldn't be limited to the menu they're fed on TV every day. The Pinoy's capacity for art appreciation is great, boundless. Who would've thought they would go crazy over Lisa Macuja dancing the ballet in a basketball court in the province?"

Indeed, her mentors (like Bibot Amador of Repertory Philippines and Lino Brocka of Peta) would surely be proud of Mitch's advocacy.

"It was a really terrible last quarter [of 2004]," she sighs. "I lost an idol [Bibot] and an icon [Katy de la Cruz whom she portrayed in 'Katy the Musical' in 1989]. I was really saddened by Katy's passing."

In loving tribute to such a national treasure, Mitch and cohort Celeste Legaspi are planning "to revive, remix, and re-release the musical's soundtrack."

"She's the Grande Dame," she says of Dela Cruz. "She's part of history. She introduced jazz to the Philippines."

Autobiography

Speaking of posterity, she is mulling her own autobiography. "I've commissioned [her friend, INQUIRER Entertainment columnist] Nestor Torre," she hollers. "When it's safe, I'll dictate my memoirs to him."

And that would help/inspire people?

"That would reveal a lot of things," she chortles. "My friends always tell me: Why does everything happen to you? It's as if every day is so eventful."

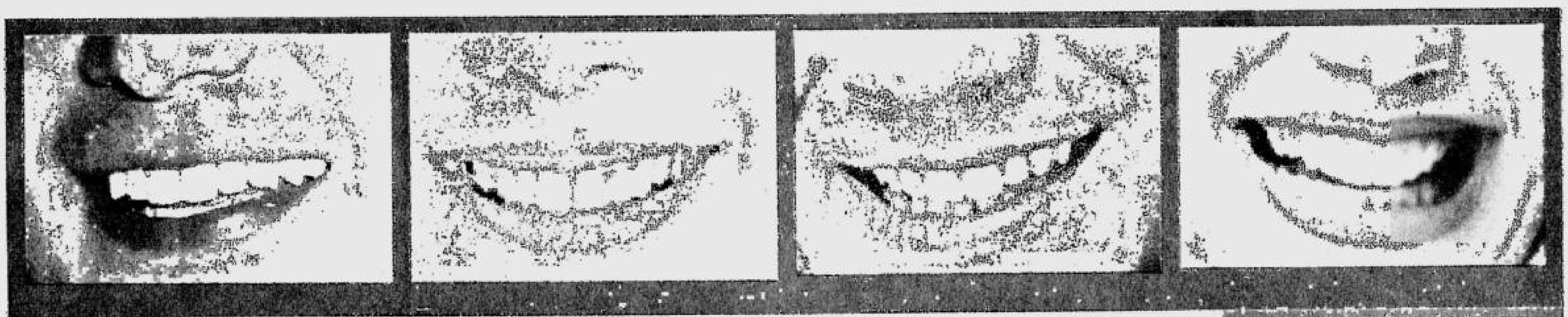
Living in Manila has always been a mega event for Mitch.

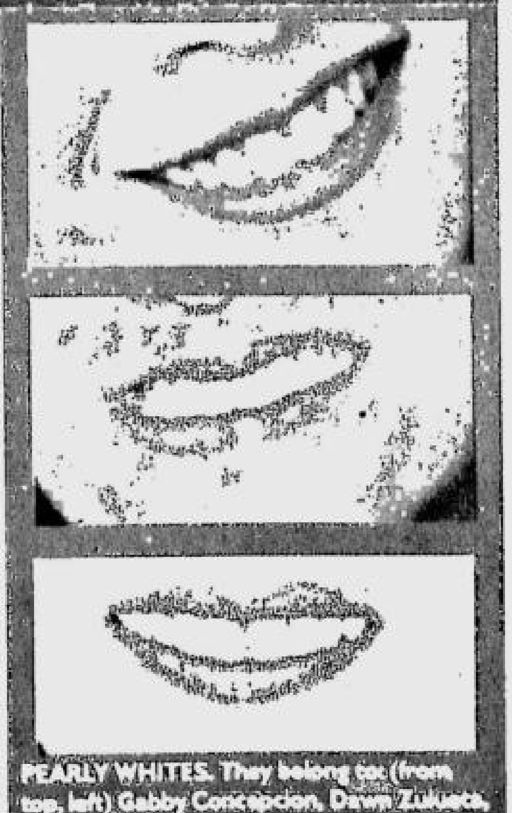
"I'm really a city girl," she concludes. "I can only take a maximum four days of Nature. And then I get itchy and antsy. I start looking for buildings. Isn't there a Starbucks on this beach?"

That is to say, life's not a beach, if you ask Mitch.

Dawn, Richard, Plinky and Gabby . . .

Smile, you're a star





PEARLY WHITES. They belong to: (from top, left) Gabby Concepcion, Dawn Zulueta, Richard Gomez, Plinky Recto, Rita Avila, Robin da Rosa, andSheila Ysrael

WHAT DO Dawn Zulueta, Gabby Concepcion, and Richard Gomez have in common?

They got their big breaks as stars after being cast in a toothpaste ad.

Close-Up commercials, it turns out, has launched more cinematic careers than all other toothpaste ads combined.

In its virtual gallery has been caught the sparkling smiles of Sen. Loren Legarda and Rep. Miguel Zubiri. Among the actors, Gabby Concepcion made the most versions.

The rest of the gang includes: Richard Gomez, Tonton Gutierrez, Dawn Zulueta, William Martinez, Mark Gil, Plinky Recto, Lloyed Samartino, Tina Revilla, Jim Paredes, Cheska Diaz, Patrick dela Rosa, Robin da Roza, Matt Mendoza, Alain Sia, Belinda Panelo, Mia Prats, Jobelle Salvador, Joed Serrano, Rita Avila, Jayvee Gayoso, Rudolph Yaptinchay, Mandy Ochoa, Sheila Ysrael, and Leo Rabago.

Beauty queens? There's Dindi Gallardo, and Aileen Damiles.

Society figures? Vicky Morales, Bea Zubiri, Carmen Delgado, Bea and Pilar Valdez, Raya Roa, Raffy Ladao, Cai Rodriguez, Mike Vaca, and many others.

Kissing party

Close-Up's more recent endorses are Heart Evangelista, John Prats, Luis Manzano, Onemig Bondoc, Rafael Rosel, Maike Evers, Brad Turvey, Stephanie Kienle, Alexis Alunan, Stephanie Zubiri, Karel Marquez, JC Gonzales, Paolo Trillo, Leandro Muñoz, Joanna Dizon, Paolo Abrera, Derek Ramsey, Chris Feist, BJ Palanca, TJ Trinidad, Kelly Misa, and the newest member of the "family," Jimmy "the mouth" Garcia.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, all these personalities are expected to gather at The Conservatory of The Peninsula Manila to be advocates of romance in an event meant to usher in the Valentine season with ... the Close-Up Kiss.

Luke Mijares, Kyla, Paolo Santos, Christian Bautista, and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra will provide the music.

Last year, the Philippines made it to the Guinness Book of Records with 5,327 couples kissing simultaneously, breaking Chile's record of 4,445 pairs. This year, Close-Up will hold the smooching sessions in Manila, Davao, Cebu, and Angeles.

CECILE DE FRANCE
JACKIE CHAN
STEVE COOGAN
AROUND THE WORLD 80 DAYS
Available on Video January 15
FREE! GLOBE MAP FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF AROUND THE WORLD 80 DAYS VCD! OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
Pre-book your orders now! For Inquiries Call C-Interactive Hotline: 374-5524 • 373-4760 Available Soon at: AstroVision

ERIC McCormack, Debra Messing and Megan Mullally

JERRY Bruckheimer

Scenes from a night of triumphs

SHOW STOPPER

MIKE Myers

THE PEOPLE'S Choice Awards were announced on Monday in glittering ceremonies in Pasadena, California. The stars came out and flashed sparkling smiles . . . and then some.

DREW Barrymore and singer Sheryl Crow

JOHNNY Depp on the video wall

ELLEN DeGeneres

MARCIA Cross and Steven Culp

MARG Helgenberger

RENEE Zellweger

PRINCE

Carnap!

ABS-CBN Star Magic's Angelene Aguilar needs help.

Her Isuzu Highlander was carnapped Monday morning in front of their house in Los Baños, Laguna.

Readers who may have information on the vehicle, a Crosswind XUVI, satin silver, with plate number VCB 340, please contact the TV station.

SM CINEMA movietime

moviepickoftheWeek

GEORGE CLOONEY
BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
and JULIA ROBERTS

TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
OCEAN'S TWELVE

NOW SHOWING

OPENS THIS WEEK

BLADE TRINITY

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING: R13

For years, Blade has fought against the vampires in the cover of night, with the world above unaware of the brutal ongoing war. But now, after falling into the crosshairs of the FBI, he is forced out into the daylight where he is driven to join forces with a clan of human vampire hunters he never knew existed - The Nightstalkers. Together with Abigail (Jessica Biel) and Hannibal (Ryan Reynolds), two deftly trained Nightstalkers, Blade follows a trail of blood to an ancient creature that is hunting him...the original vampire, Dracula.

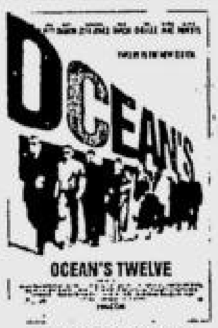
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview • North Edsa • Manila • Sta. Mesa • Southmall Tutuban • Bicutan • Sucat

STEPHEN CHOW
功夫
KUNG FU HUSTLE

KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

A hapless wanna be gangster, Sing, must overcome his inability to wield a knife and demonstrate his mettle in order to become a member of the notorious Axe Gang. After several encounters with thugs and a fearsome adversary known as the Beast, Sing overcomes his inadequacy and realizes he is the greatest kung fu master of them all, destined to protect the sacred street.

Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview North Edsa Manila • Sta. Mesa Southmall • Tutuban • Bicutan Sucat



OCEAN'S TWELVE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

Daniel Ocean recruits one more team member so he can pull off three major European heists in the sequel to Ocean's 11. It's three years later and Terry Benedict wants his money back. While Ocean and his team are spread out all over the U.S., Benedict tracks down every single one of them. Now, Ocean's Eleven is back together and they need to pay Benedict back PLUS interest within two weeks. The team travels to Amsterdam to start a new heist.

Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview • North Edsa Manila • Sta. Mesa • Southmall

NOW SHOWING

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 SIGAW
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 BLADE TRINITY
11 LASTIKMAN
12 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city fairview
1 LASTIKMAN
2 SIGAW
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 ENTENG KABISOTE
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
10 AISHITE IMASU 1941
11 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
12 MANO PO 3

sm city manila
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 AISHITE IMASU 1941
8 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SIGAW
11 MANO PO 3
12 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm city sta. mesa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 MANO PO 3
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 LASTIKMAN
8 SIGAW
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city southmall
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SIGAW
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
10 MANO PO 3

sm city north edsa
1 SIGAW
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 MANO PO 3
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm cinema tutuban
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

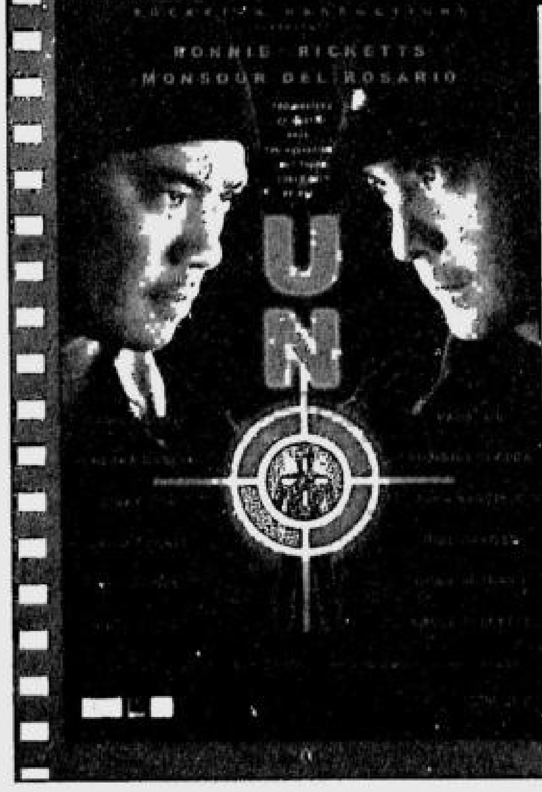
sm supercenter sucat
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city bicutan
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.



UNO MARTIAL ARTS EXHIBITION CONTEST

Show-off your popular, signature martial arts moves and walk away with great prizes! Join the UNO Martial Arts Exhibition contest. Open to kids with ages between 7-12 years old. Get a chance to win P1,000 and UNO premium items.

Jan. 12 – 13 • 4:30pm
Jan. 14 • 1:30pm
SM City North Edsa Entertainment Area

Registration will be held at the Entertainment area. Participants may also register at Pageshop Design & Communications by calling 7274784. Look for Paolo Misolas of SM Cinema's Red Carpet Group.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) MANO PO 3 GP

1 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13
2 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY R13
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 ENTENG KABISOTE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) AFTER THE SUNSET
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
4 (DTS) PANAGHOY SA SUBA

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) BLADE TRINITY
2 (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE
6 GOLD (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HAPPY TOGETHER
8 (DOLBY) SIGAW
9 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
10 (DOLBY) MANO PO-3

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 ENTENG KABISOTE

MARKET!MARKET!
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SIGAW
3 MANO PO -3
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 SIGAW

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BLADE III
2 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY) RAISE YOUR VOICE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
1 (Dolby) OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 (SDDS) BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (Dolby) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 (Dolby) ENTENG KABISOTE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BLADE TRINITY
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 HAPPY TOGETHER
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Session Road MTV . . .

From page 4

Tony said the sight of firemen pumping water on the street was enough to scare anyone.

The last time residents felt this helpless was right after July 16, 1990, when a killer quake devastated the city, he said.

Nevertheless, Hannah and her brothers Chavi and Jose gave a well-received, foot-stomping performance at the mall and laughed off the disease by calling meningococcemia "a rumor."

Take it off

Chavi, the band leader and drummer, appeared onstage wearing a surgical mask but took it off at the end of their first song.

"The mask was a statement," he explained. "I wanted to tell the audience 'Take off all masks!'"

"These rumors of meningococcemia, *nakaka*-freak out *siya, eh* [it can freak you out], especially when you watch the news on TV," Hannah said.

"We were smart, though. We took all our vitamins before coming up. The mask is a fashion statement. For me, the meningococcemia outbreak in Baguio is false information. I'm staying," Chavi said.

The rest of the band, however, like their guitarists Baguio-born Coy Placido and Manila-born Richard Carandang, drove back to Metro Manila after the tour.

Before going their own way, the band agreed to help "rescue Baguio," Tony, the elder Romawac, told the INQUIRER.

"My kids wants to help clean (the real) Session Road and Baguio because they know what's at stake is their home," he said.

No. 2 on MTV

According to Ferdinand Balanag, the video's director and the Romawacs' childhood friend, "Suntok sa Buwan" has jumped to the second top spot on MTV Philippines' countdown of favorite music videos.

Now that the youth are listening and watching, it's time they realize what the music video is all about.

It features excerpts from 16-mm home movies shot by Lan-ey Mueller, deceased mother of Baguio old-timer and coffee shop habitué John Mueller.

Mueller was one of the first German investors in Benguet's old mines who settled in Baguio and married a Cordilleran.

Balanag took snippets from the Mueller home movies and merged them with videos of the band members. In one scene, you have Hannah, Chavi and other band members taking a ride in a 1932 Chevrolet on the street from which the band took its name.

Session Road was built on a small hill where the second Philippine Commission of the American colonial government convened.

Mueller's original home movies—some 20 reels—are being archived by Baguio artist Art Tibaldo.

Tibaldo is also producing a personal documentary of old Baguio as part of a crusade to protect the city's remaining legacies.

Tony has already done his part—by raising the Romawac kids in Baguio.

"My kids never once tried to hide their Baguio roots," he revealed. "They grew up with artists like Bencab and Santi Bose, who saw everything that was beautiful about Baguio. I know my children will again show the country why Baguio is beautiful."

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB Market

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

1	2	3
OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 1:20,3:50,6:20,8:50	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40	BLADE 3: TRINITY R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:20
KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	SO HAPPY TOGETHER PG13 12:40,5:20,10:00 MANO PO 3 GP 3:00,7:40	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW Tel. No. 726.61.50	METROPOLIS ALABANG star Tel. No. 850.42.85	starmall LAS PIÑAS Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Kung Fu Hustle	1 Happy Together	1 Around the World in 80 days
4 Blade 3	2 Nagdadalaga	2 Sigaw
5 Oceans 12	3 Kung Fu Hustle	
	4 Enteng Kabisote	
	5 Blade 3	
	6 Oceans 12	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 BLADE III
10:40, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
R-13

2 OCEAN'S 12
11:10, 2:05, 5:05 8:05, 11:05
PG-13

3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING SCHEDULE

ARANETA CENTER
LEISURE GUIDE

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ADMISSION: P99 (Free Seating) P120 (Reserved Seats)
ALL THEATERS WITH IMPORTED SEATS AND WALL-TO-WALL CARPET, ONLINE VISTA TICKET COMPUTER SYSTEM.
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
Telephone : 912-4808 / 911-5555
NOW SHOWING

OCEAN'S TWELVE
12:45 1:15 3:35 4:05 6:25 6:55 9:15 9:45

BLADE : TRINITY
12:05 12:35 2:25 2:55 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:25

KUNG FU HUSTLE
12:50 1:20 3:00 3:30 5:10 5:40 7:20 7:50 9:30

SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05

ALI MALL CINEMAS
Telephone : 911-3101 ext. 8281 / 8242

1	Dolby	OCEAN'S TWELVE 12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30
2	SDDS	BLADE: TRINITY 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
3	dts	KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4	Dolby	SO HAPPY TOGETHER 11:20 1:30 3:40 5:50 8:00
5	Dolby	ENTENG KABISOTE 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

ARANETA COLISEUM

Jan. 12	PBA ALL FILIPINO CUP BASKETBALL GAMES
Jan. 14	
Jan. 29	Martin Nievera & Patti Austin Concert

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 4 PM to 10 PM
Sunday & Holiday 2 PM to 10 PM

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
OCEAN'S TWELVE
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
PG13

CINEMA 2
KUNG FU HUSTLE
10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
JANUARY 7, 2005 GARY V - 'WAVE OF HOPE' 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 1PM, 4PM, 7PM
LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)

③ BLADE TRINITY
FS 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM
LMF 10:00PM (R-13)

② KUNG FU HUSTLE
FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)

④ OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 12:30PM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM
LMF 9:30PM (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE
Special MMFF Promo Price P236
(includes unlimited popcorn and drinks)
MANO PO 3
11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM,, 7:25PM, 10PM
(GP)

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150

For inquiries, call 633-2227
or 633-7851 local 171.

Shangri-La Plaza

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA	632-9115/16
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE • THX	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY	7 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 IN SEARCH OF THE IMPOTENT MAN	8 MANO PO 3
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE	9 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE	10 SIGAW

ERMITA	536-7809 to 12
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER	5 RAISE YOUR VOICE
3 BLADE TRINITY	6 RESERVE
4 IN SEARCH OF THE IMPOTENT MAN	7 KUNG FU HUSTLE

METRO EAST	682-8193/99 • 682-8280
1 TWO BROTHERS	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 MANO PO 3	7 BLADE TRINITY
4 SIGAW	8 ENTENG KABISOTE

NOVALICHES	935-3229/31
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 MANO PO 3	6 BLADE TRINITY
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	7 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SIGAW	8 AISHITE IMASU

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

Exclusive SCREENING
TWO BROTHERS
January 12, 2004
Robinsons Movieworld
METRO EAST
MTRCB Rating: G

A NEW FAMILY ADVENTURE FILM
TWO BROTHERS

PIONEER	687-5378
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	3 RAISE YOUR VOICE
2 BLADE TRINITY	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

Citisquare MALABON	286-0985 / 2575
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	3 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 MANO PO 3	4 SIGAW

CAINTA	240 4661
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 ENTENG KABISOTE	4 BLADE TRINITY

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Local recording industry gets back on track

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

THE YEAR just past ended with two artists reemerging to bring good tidings to the Pinoy rock music scene.

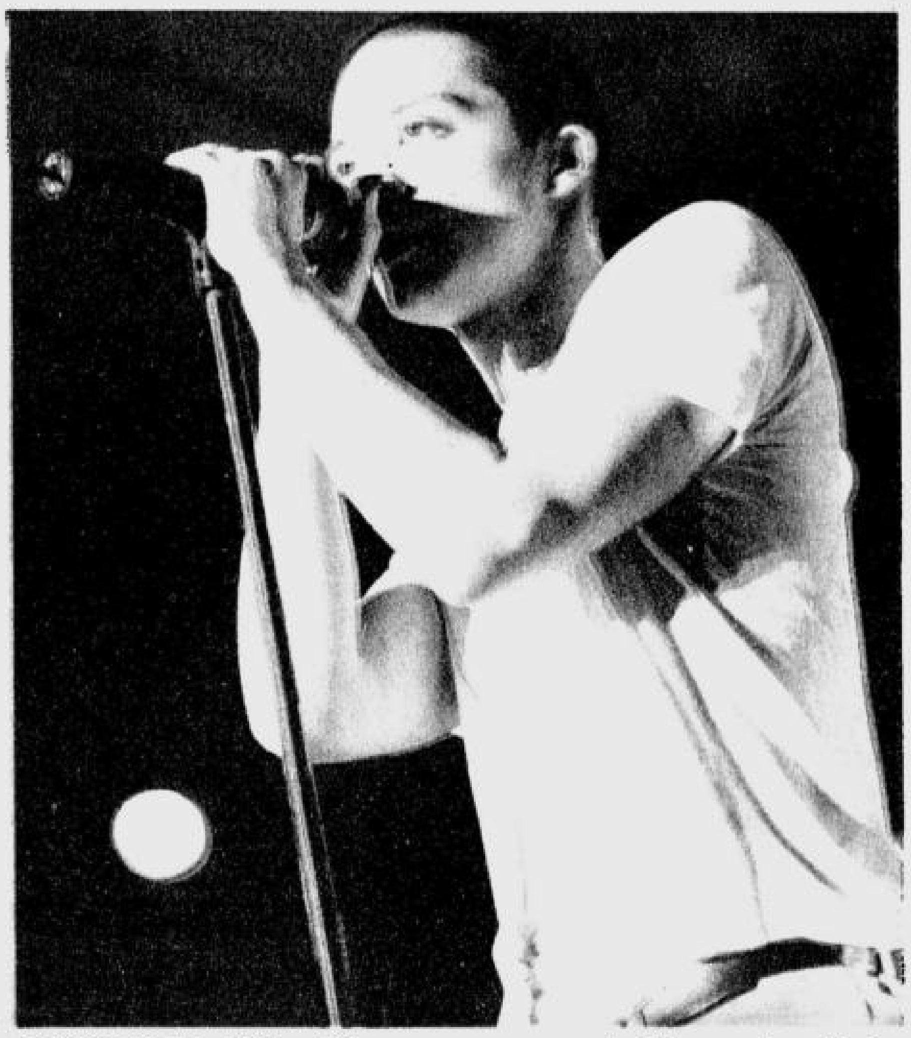
Not too long ago, Bamboo Mañalac and Kitchie Nadal walked away from promising careers—a surprise move, since both were then experiencing success as lead vocalists of their respective bands. Mañalac quit Rivermaya to study in the United States; Nadal resigned from Mojofly to resume her studies at La Salle Taft.

But more surprising was their recent decision to return, Nadal going back to the studio to record her own songs as a solo artist, and Mañalac writing, arranging and co-producing his own material with a band that bears his own name, Bamboo.

Nadal's self-titled CD, distributed by Warner Music Philippines, is said to have gone gold (20,000 copies sold) two months after its release, while Bamboo's debut album, "As the Music Plays," (released by EMI Philippines) is reportedly approaching double-platinum (80,000 copies sold) status as of this writing.

SURELY, the scene has not been found wanting in major acts, like Rivermaya, now led by Rico Blanco.

KITCHIE Nadal writes with flair. Her "Wag na Wag Mong Sasabihin" appeals to the Pinoy's very heart.



BAMBOO Mañalac's "Noypi" fuses power arrangements with super-charged lyrics and homegrown insights. RP has talents galore but piracy still rears its ugly head.

Crippling piracy

This is a very significant development—wonderful news to a record industry that has been ailing, and apparently has yet to recover from a slump after making hay in the booming mid-'90s. Two major factors contributed to that slump: the absence of superstar bands like the Eraserheads, which disbanded after leading the alternative music bandwagon for several years; and the almost crippling effect of CD piracy.

Surely, the scene has not been found wanting in major acts. Parokya ni Edgar is still around churning out hits in succession, followed by Greyhoundz and Slapshock, both consistently recording well-received albums, not to mention the popularity of Paolo Santos who, together with Jimmy Bondoc and Nyoy Volante, resurrected the folk rock sound now euphemistically called "acoustic."

But these acts weren't enough. Somehow we needed something more than Parokya's cheeky wit and humor. After a while, we found our ears bleeding from the rap-metal noise of Greyhoundz and Slapshock. It also became clear that the acoustic trend fell short of the caustic lyrics that Noel Cabangon and Joey Ayala had done ages ago in the "underground" circuit.

Which brings us back to Nadal and Mañalac. What in heaven's name is so good about their work? Though nothing earthshaking, the individual materials they have created were both moving enough to cause a stir among eager and jaded souls alike.

Brooding melody

In the case of Nadal, it's got to be her song "Wag na Wag Mong Sasabihin." Apart from its brooding melody that makes it so appealing to the Pinoy heart, this song empowers women on the verge of a breakdown, after a breakup, to verbalize her thoughts and feelings: *"Wag na wag mong sasabihin/Na hindi mo nadama itong/Pag-ibig kong handang ibigay/Kahit pa kalayaan mo..."*

Nadal writes with flair and expresses her sentiments in a style suitably her own, even if that is reminiscent of other memorable voices, like Natalie Merchant's.

By now, everyone who bought the Kitchie Nadal CD should be aware of the rest of the good stuff in it. Not only in tracks like "Deliverance" and "Breathe" does her songwriting skill shimmer; in fact, a closer listen to "You're Worthy," "Run," "Fire" and "Bulong" will reveal that this woman's talents truly shine brightly.

These four songs contain references to Nadal's newfound devotion to Christ, and we dare say that they have managed to lift Christian-inspired music to new heights: no longer trying hard to blend into a secular groove while retaining lyrical insights.

Homegrown instinct

As for Mañalac, it is "Noypi." As the title suggests, the song reworks the hackneyed homage to Pinoy pride and identity by fusing power-chord arrangements with super-charged lines like: *"Hoy/Pinoy ako/Buo aking loob/May agimat ang dugo ko..."* And lest others cast doubts on the songwriter's sensibility, listen to his homegrown instinct: *"Sabi nila may anting-anting ako/Pero di nila alam na Diyos ang dahilan ko..."*

At this very moment, we are still in the throes of foot-stomping joy over the 10 tracks that make "As the Music Plays" a runaway winner, especially for those contemplating whether to buy the special edition CD or just settle for a crummy pirated version of the first release. At P280, the special edition CD is a steal because it contains a separate audio-video disc with six new tracks and three videos—including that of "Noypi" and its lingering images of an *astig* meat butcher.

Credit goes to EMI for taking pains to curb piracy by manufacturing copy-controlled CDs, a technology that makes it (hopefully) impossible to duplicate on re-writable discs. Mañalac himself should be congratulated, if he was involved in creative inputs that constitute the bonus tracks in the special edition CD.

While at it, here's a high five to the other members of Bamboo, especially the much-improved guitarist Ira Cruz whom we thought would never amount to anything beyond his pretty-boy looks back in the early days of Introvoys at Club Dredd Timog.

Session Road MTV can rescue the capital of cool from this crippling 'praningo'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'All this talk about meningococcemia can freak you out. But we were smart. We took all our vitamins before coming up here'

BAGUIO CITY—There's a music video being played on MTV Philippines which could help change the city's image from "praningo" (paranoia about getting meningococcemia) back to the capital of cool.

"SUNTOK sa Buwan" by the Ragnarok group Session Road includes never-before-seen Baguio sights from 1920 through 1940. It promptly hit its target.

"Suntok sa Buwan," one of the country's most requested songs and currently in the No. 2 spot of MTV Philippines' favorite music videos, features never-before-seen footage of Baguio from the years 1920, 1932 and 1940.

The images offer the so-called Ragnarok generation glimpses of the grandeur of old Baguio, once an American city. If only teenagers—who want their MTV—were made aware of it.

Session Road, the band from Baguio that produced the song, said the music video could help make Baguio popular all over again, in spite of "praningococcemia."

Road trip

Ignoring television broadsides about the masked denizens of the summer capital, Session Road (led by Baguio-born musicians Chavi, Hannah and Jose Valentino Romawac) visited the city on Saturday to promote "Suntok sa Buwan" and for the obligatory mall tour.

Session Road made it to the local FM radio bulletins, along with filmmaker Eddie Romero and other celebrities who braved rumors of the meningococcemia scare to be in Baguio.

Session Road band member Hannah, 25, daughter of Baguio artist Tony Romawac, spent five minutes in shocked silence as city employees hosed down Session Road—the street—on Saturday evening.

The real Session Road is a major thoroughfare that traverses downtown Baguio.

SESSION/3

Fire Dance in February

THE FIRE Dance Cirque from the United States is set to arrive in Manila for a series of 10 shows at the Araneta Coliseum, Feb. 22 to 27.

Presented by Smart and ALV Events International, the Fire Dance Cirque is a new concept in live entertainment in which acrobatic musicians create new, non-traditional ceremonial dances that celebrate life through the beat of drums.

While the concept is based on Native American themes, it "represents a unity of international tribal lifestyles" and uses instruments from all over the world. The performance consists of tribal-based rites in a modern setting, with completely original music, stage and media design.

Each skit represents specific and familiar life experiences.

The group says it could be considered a "tribal rock and roll" band: "We, the musicians, take our ancestral heritage and apply it to what we feel makes what we are as people of the modern world."

Fire Dance Cirque promises Filipino audiences a presentation "that will appeal to all age groups."

For details, call ALV Events, tel. 633-9825 to 27.

Jim CARREY
Kirsten DUNST
Elijah WOOD
Kate WINSLET
ETERNAL SUNSHINE
of the spotless mind
ETERNAL SUNSHINE
Available on Video January 15
Pre-book your orders now! For Inquiries Call C-Interactive Hotline: 374-5524 • 373-4760